



Inside

For Four Decades . . .  
**BILL WATTS WALKS TALL FOR AMERICA**

47727 Nov. 1986

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VICTORY  
SPORTS  
SERIES

# Wrestling

**Paul Ellering's Own Story**

**"HOW MY  
ROAD WARRIORS MADE  
DUSTY RHODES NWA  
WORLD CHAMPION"**

Road Warrior Hawk softens Ric Flair



**THE BRITISH BULLDOGS:**

Are They Good Enough To Beat . . .

**THE ROAD WARRIORS**

**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**

**THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS**

**—and more!**

**An Amazing Story Continues:  
CHRIS ADAMS WINS THE WORLD CLASS  
TITLE FROM RICK RUDE!**





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## SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthful. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

## GAIN STAMINA AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TOO.

Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

## GAIN WEIGHT! GAIN WOMEN!

*If you think that's just a catchy slogan, we hope you will do yourself a favor. Count how many skinny men you see in movies, or on TV or anywhere . . . with pretty women. Notice whom they pick for clothing models. See the announcers, the M.C.'s, the newsmen. How many men in the public eye, in politics, in leadership roles in business are underweight? Not even astronauts are skinny guys. If you want to experience a change in your attitude, your business progress, your lifestyle, see what 5, 10, 15 pounds can do for you. See how it adds to your personal esteem, your confidence and, best of all, your well-being. Your day will come . . . and thank your lucky stars, it's within sight with *ShapeUp* working for you.*

## LOOK BETTER AND FEEL BETTER WHILE YOU GAIN

In these times when women are free to express themselves and pick and choose their men, you don't need a handicap . . . especially when it's so easy to put yourself in the forefront of competition. Why not look your best? And you will if you feel your best. And you'll feel your best when you gain the kind of nutrition that builds your body to its highest potential. Everyone knows that a healthy body brings a healthy mind and the kind of outlook that makes you want to kick up your heels . . . and go out and lick the world. Yes, with *ShapeUp*, you give yourself a super-lift of confidence, built into its wondrous formula, that's compounded to perk you up and give you a winning attitude.



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INSIDE

# Wrestling

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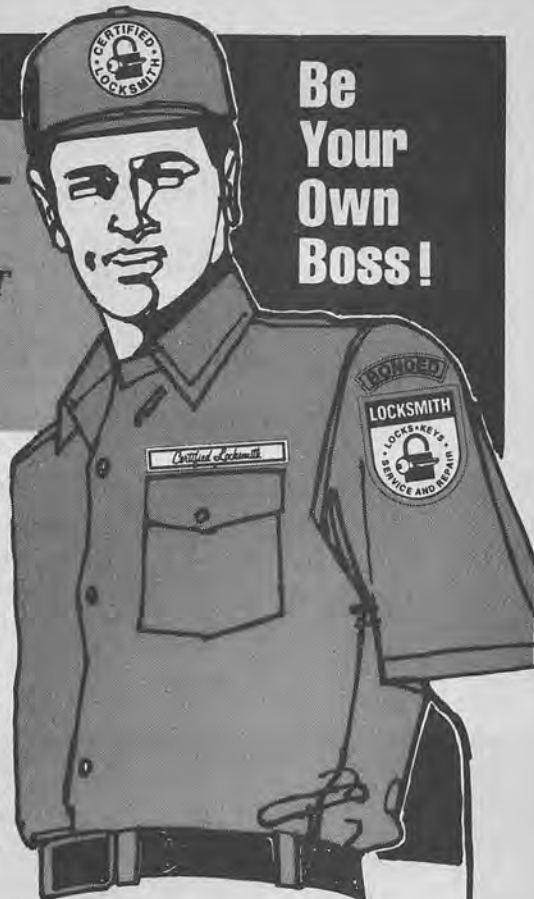


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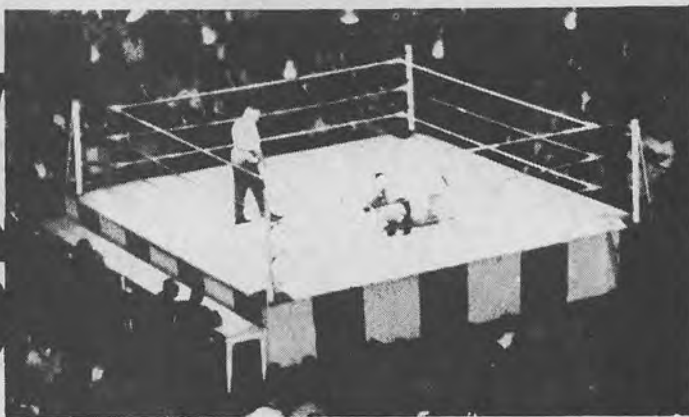
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# SINCERELY YOURS

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## HULKAMANIA IS DEAD

When Hulk Hogan first won the WWF World title from The Iron Sheik, it was well deserved and people liked him. Now that he has had it for over two years, his reign is on the verge of failing.

King Kong Bundy might not be the person who will take the belt away from Hogan, but sooner or later the belt will be taken away.

After seeing Hogan against Bundy at WrestleMania 2, I saw that Bundy was having a bad night and Hogan

was having a good night. That match does not mean that Hogan is mentally or physically fit to take on anyone; it means he is better at climbing cages.

NATE EDMUNDS  
Devon, PA

## KUDOS FOR CHAMPIONS

I just want to thank *Inside Wrestling* for the excellent monthly work it does on the "Official Ratings" and, particularly, the "Roll Call Of Champions."

The Roll Call is perhaps the single best feature in any wrestling magazine anywhere. Not only does it tell me who the champions are, it tells me who they won their titles from, when and where the match happened, and shows me which titles changed hands most recently. I just can't rave enough about this page—it's the greatest thing since Bill Apter's "Names Makin' News."

Nothing earth-shattering. Nothing spectacular in the way of opinions. But I just wanted to let you know that there are those of us reading *Inside Wrestling* who appreciate the hard work you put into the magazine every month. Thank you, and keep it up.

TINA ASHLEY  
Los Angeles

## HAYNES CAN'T BE TRUSTED

Wrestlers can be very deceiving. Take Billy Jack Haynes, for instance. He comes back to the Pacific Northwest and says he is home to stay. And, of course, we, his adoring fans, believed him. But once again, he showed us that his word is worth a hill of beans. Yes, he has left *again*. This time he has ventured to the world of the WWF.

(Continued on page 49)



Hulk Hogan's victory over King Kong Bundy at WrestleMania 2 did not impress Nate Edmunds. Nate feels that Hogan's reign as WWF champion is about to come to a close.



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# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter  
King  
Editor-in-Chief

A new NWA champion had been crowned, and the party lasted until 2 a.m. The host was jovial, checking on his guests to make sure they had enough to eat and drink. A small bandage covered an ugly wound on his forehead, but other than that, he was the picture of sartorial splendor, wearing an expensive designer suit and silk shirt. The smile on his face was wide, and the twinkle in his eyes showed he was a man filled with confidence. If his guests didn't know, they never would have believed that their host had only hours before engaged in a brutal, bloody battle. And if they hadn't seen it with their own eyes, they never would have believed that their host had just lost the NWA title.

Yes, the host of this party was Ric Flair.

"This party was booked weeks in advance," Flair told me. "There's no way I was about to disappoint my friends. Or miss out on a good time. Welcome to the Great Ric Flair Bash. Whooooo!"

The whole scene seemed crazy. Here was the vanquished champion laughing and partying. Most athletes after a bitter defeat want to be alone. Not Flair. If he was depressed about his loss, he was hiding it well.

"Listen, daddy," Flair said, "I've got the 'what me worry' attitude. I've got a return match with Pigbutt Rhodes tomorrow night in Dallas. The belt is gonna be mine again. What do you want me to do, lock myself in my room and cry? Pal, Ric Flair hasn't cried since he was five years old. I'll party tonight, and tomorrow I'm gonna go out and whip that fatboy real bad. And tomorrow night, I'll party even harder. This ain't a post-defeat party. This is a pre-victory party. So let's celebrate!"

The next evening, Ric Flair again wrestled Dusty Rhodes. He was pinned for the second time in a row. The party that night was canceled. That night, Ric Flair locked himself in his room.



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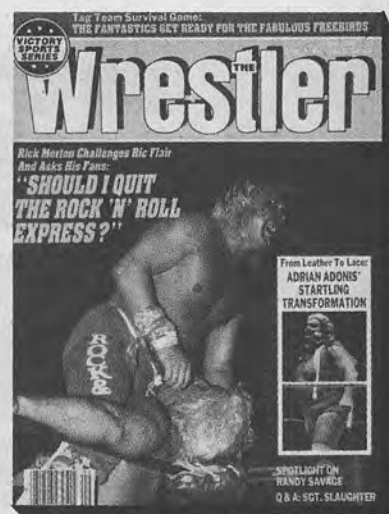
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# TOP SECRET

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **Stu  
Saks**

**I** DON'T WANT anybody to get the impression that I support Paul Orndorff in his recent rebellion against Hulk Hogan, but I think I understand the frustration that drove him to do what he did.

Orndorff entered the WWF in 1983 as a rulebreaker but jumped camps after Roddy Piper pinned the blame on him for their loss at WrestleMania 1 to Hulk Hogan and Mr. T. Orndorff, who had learned how rewarding the life of a fan favorite could be while in the Georgia area, quickly became the WWF fans' second most favorite wrestler, which is all any wrestler can hope to attain in the land of the Hulk.

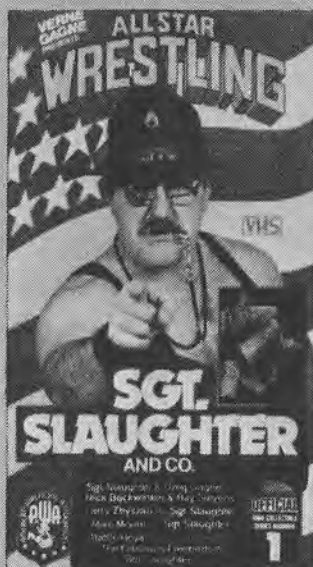
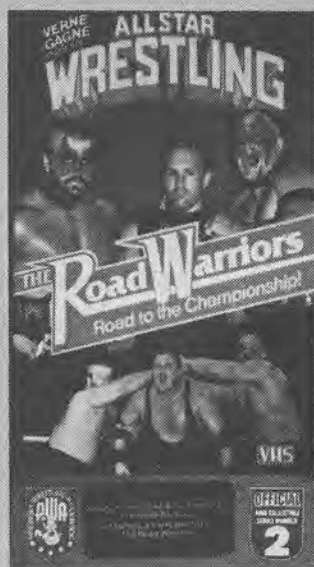
But when you become Hulk Hogan's friend, you automatically lose the opportunity to wrestle for his title. Orndorff understood that, and at first it didn't bother him. While he was a rulebreaker, he received all the title shots a man can ever hope for. And he never succeeded in dethroning the Hulkster. He confided in friends that he was somewhat relieved to get out of his rut and take on some different opponents. He also took pleasure in the fact that he was able to wrestle Piper and Cowboy Bob Orton, the men who had embarrassed him nationally after the WrestleMania defeat.

After a few months, however, the novelty of being the second-most popular wrestler in the WWF began to wear thin. For one thing, Orndorff's number two position wasn't as secure as it had been immediately after WrestleMania. The popularity of such men as Tito Santana, Junkyard Dog, and Rick Steamboat was on the rise, making Orndorff just one of many who began to get lost in what has become known as the "WWF

*(Continued on page 63)*



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- ★ **Freebirds Michael Hayes and Terry Gordy** square off against **Greg Gagne and Curt Hennig**. Excellent tag team action! Gagne and Hennig turn Hayes' head into a human pinball! But lurking outside the ring is the third Freebird, **Buddy Roberts**. Caution: he hates to see his brothers lose!
- ★ **The Road Warriors** battle **Sgt. Slaughter** and Jerry "Crusher" Blackwell for the tag team championship of the world! Blackwell unleashes a 472 lb. big splash on Hawk! The Sarge executes his deadly **Cobra Clutch** on Animal! But **Shiek Adnon-Al-Kasie** charges the ring and thrashes the Sarge! Beer showers the grapplers! **Paul Ellering** joins the mayhem! It's a chaotic six-man battle royal!

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**S**ITTING IN THE hospital waiting room, I saw a young woman with an infant. The woman looked as if she had been waiting for hours for news of her husband, or perhaps one of her parents or a friend. The baby was oblivious to any goings-on, and was occupying himself with a crumpled, shiny candy wrapper on the floor. The baby's sputtering, gurgling yelps of happiness were a stark counterpoint to the woman's obvious anxiety about the news she wasn't sure would come, and prayed she wouldn't have to hear.

I'd only been in the waiting room for about a half an hour, but I was getting uncomfortable. I've never felt at ease in hospitals, and maybe that's because, thank goodness, I've never been a patient in one. It's probably also due to the fact that there's a significant percentage of people who are checked into hospitals who never have the opportunity to check out. I guess that's why the presence in that waiting room of the woman with the baby seemed so peculiar to me: new life bubbling merrily along while news of the worst possible kind seems to lurk only a wheezing breath away.

I was thankful when a doctor broke my concentration and told me it was okay to go on up to room 303 in the telemetry unit. Telemetry—that's where a patient is hooked up to wires and diodes and sensors that keep constant track of his heartbeat. He said that Steve Williams was awake, but that he was groggy. And I could only stay a minute. And don't expect him to be able to talk, the doctor added, because his neck was in traction and he was unable to speak.

Hospital elevators. They're big, to accomodate stretchers and gurneys and so forth. Plenty of room for thought. I pressed the button marked "3" and, as the doors glided shut, I thought about the piece of videotape I had seen the day before in the office:

It was a match between Terry Gordy and Ted DiBiase at the University of New Orleans Lakefront Arena. Gordy's UWF title was on the line. Gordy clotheslined DiBiase and pinned him for the victory. Gordy's Freebird brother, Michael Hayes, entered the ring to share in his friend's victory, and to yell taunts and insults at DiBiase.

The clothesline had stunned Ted, but it hadn't seriously injured him. DiBiase, having had a few seconds to recover, jumped to his feet and hit Hayes in the face several times. Gordy rushed in and clotheslined DiBiase again. The third Freebird, Buddy Roberts, rushed into the ring, and a three-on-one took place. As Roberts and Hayes held DiBiase, Gordy climbed to the top rope and delivered an Oriental spike to DiBiase's throat.

The next sight was like the cavalry coming to the rescue in some old western. Steve "Dr. Death" Williams ran into the

## ON THE ROAD

with  
CRAIG PETERS

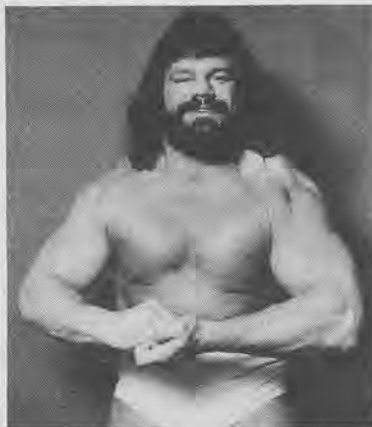
ring to help his friend. DiBiase had been stunned by the clothesline-spike combination, however, and a three-on-one quickly developed on Williams. The brawl took place mostly on the area outside the ring, and it was there that the horror took place:

As Michael Hayes held one foot and Buddy Roberts held the other, pressing down and adding force and power to the impending move, Terry Gordy delivered a piledriver to Williams *on the concrete floor*.

The attack brought back grisly images of 1981 in Atlanta. It was then and there that The Freebirds did precisely the same thing to DiBiase. And it also brought back images of late 1985, when DiBiase wound up in the hospital with a neck injury at the hands of Dick Murdoch.

The elevator doors opened and I was on the third floor. A sign directed the way to room 303. Down one hallway, make a left, and three rooms down on the right. I didn't want to intrude on the privacy of any patient in any room I passed, but my peripheral vision provided me with multiple images of illness and injury. And the smell of a hospital, once experienced, is something that never leaves you.

Room 303. I entered slowly, as if not wanting to disturb the healing process taking place within. I saw Williams, lying in a bed, his neck in traction, several wires leading to his body, and a tube in his nose. His eyes were open, barely, and he appeared more drunk than tired. I think he recog-



Steve Williams

nized me, because he smiled. He weakly pointed to his right eye, and I didn't understand. He made ever-so-slight crisscross motions with his finger, and then I knew what he was referring to: the incident last year where he had 108 stitches put around his eye, and then wrestled that same day. That

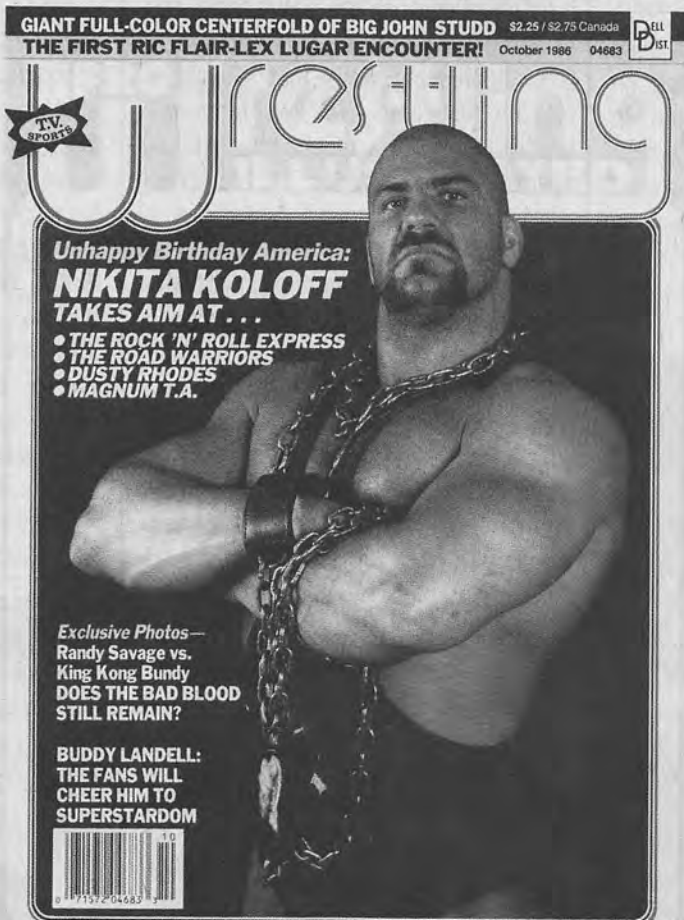
one gesture spoke volumes: "I'm not about to give up. I'm tough. I'll be back, sooner than anyone thinks. And I'll be back stronger than ever. I'm not a quitter, and I never will be."

Williams lay back in the bed, closed his eyes, and went to sleep. I went back to the elevator, pressed "1," and tried to find enough change in my pockets to call the office.

When I got to the telephone booth in the waiting room, I noticed that the woman and the infant were gone. I hoped that her news that day was at least as good as mine. □



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# NAMES MAKI

**Dusty Rhodes** is the new NWA World heavyweight champion. He used a small package to pin **Ric Flair** on July 26 in a steel cage match in Greensboro, North Carolina, and capture the title for a third time. The card was the 13th of 14 Great American Bash cards held this summer, and marked Dusty's third shot at Flair during the Bashes.



**DUSTY RHODES**

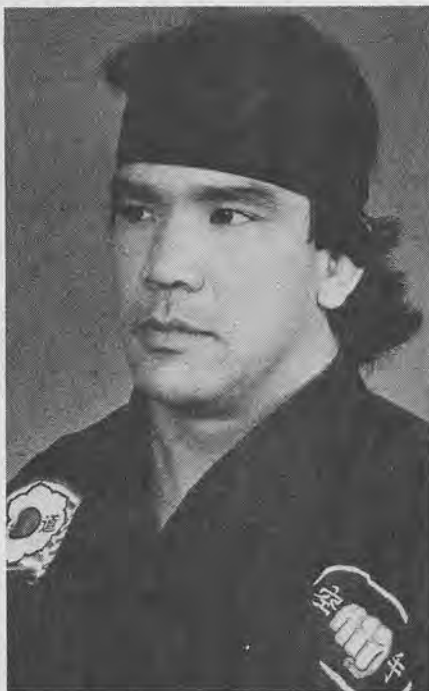
"It was just a matter of time, daddy," said a jubilant "American Dream" following the bout. "Rickie Flair, he been running, but there ain't no way he was gonna be able to hide from me. The Dream was determined, daddy, The Dream was ready, willing, and waiting. It took some time, it took a lot of hard work, but it just proves what I preach all along, my friends, and that's that your American dream, whatever it is, will come to you with hard work, blood, sweat, and maybe even a few tears, daddy. *Oohh!* This one is soooooo sweet!"

In his first title defense, on July 27 in Dallas, Dusty pinned Flair again.

**Nick Bockwinkel** has been court-

ing the cheers of the AWA fans, but nevertheless seems to have reverted to the rulebreaking ways that characterized his first three AWA World championship reigns. In a recent title defense against **Jerry Lawler** in Memphis, when Bockwinkel found himself at a severe disadvantage to "The King," he reached into his trunks and produced a weapon that he used to hit Lawler in the head. Lawler collapsed to the mat, and Bockwinkel scored an easy pinfall.

The WWC Universal title, declared vacant as the result of an incident in which **Abdullah the Butcher** threw ammonia in the eyes of former champ **Carlos Colon**, will be the prize in a tournament in September. In addition to Abdullah and Colon, **Bruiser Brody** and **Jumbo Tsuruta** have already made commitments to compete for the title . . . **Sgt. Slaughter** is wrestling in the Kansas City area, and is looking to add **Bulldog Bob Brown's** Central States title to his own Americas championship . . . **Rick Steamboat** may be scaring off his



**RICK STEAMBOAT**

number one rival in the WWF! **Jake Roberts** failed to show up for a scheduled match with "The Dragon" at Nassau Coliseum on Long Island. The match, which was to be the main event, was replaced by a 12-man battle royal—which Steamboat won when he dropkicked **Jim Neidhart** and **Brett Hart** over the ropes simultaneously! Also competing in the battle royal were **Billy Jack Haynes**, **King Kong Bundy**, **The British Bulldogs**, and **Raymond** and **Jacques Rougeau**. It's interesting to note that, also on the card, the Rougeaus scored a spectacular upset victory over Hart and Neidhart.



**MASKED SUPERSTAR**

**Masked Superstar** captured the Southern title from **Lex Luger** on July 22 in Tampa. The loss came about as the result of Luger's foot getting caught in the ropes. As Luger struggled to free himself, Superstar delivered a headbutt that nearly knocked Luger unconscious. Luger and his manager,

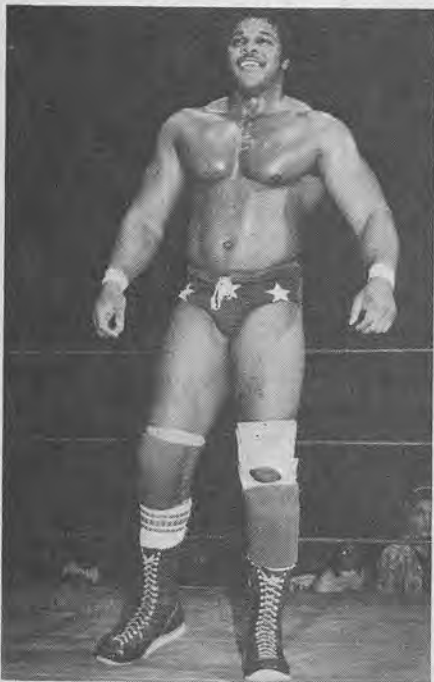


# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...

**Bob Roop**, are claiming that Superstar's mask was loaded. Speaking of Superstar, doesn't the voice behind Superstar's mask sound suspiciously familiar to the voice behind the mask of **Super Machine**?

**Bruiser Brody** is feuding wildly with **Abdullah The Butcher** in the World Class area. One would think that their energies would be better spent going after World Class champ **Chris**



**BUTCH REED**

**Adams** ... **Butch Reed** is a new-comer to the WWF, as is **Slick**, late of the Central States area, who is negotiating to purchase the entire stable currently headed by **Fred Blassie** ... It's becoming clearer each day that **The Midnight Rockers** are getting better and better. Their maneuvers are faster, their teamwork improves, and they seem to have a new finishing move each match. And as they get better, they seem to be closing in on **Playboy Buddy Rose** and **Doug Somers**. I predict that the Rockers will have the AWA World tag belts by the end of the summer.



**THE FREEBIRDS**

**The Fabulous Freebirds** have a new album coming out, entitled "Rebel Rock" ... **Jimmy Valiant** recently had his head shaved bald when he was pinned by **Paul Jones**. We have to give a "thumbs up" to Valiant, who took his shaving like a man, despite **Manny Fernandez** and several other of Valiant's friends begging NWA official **Sandy Scott** not to clip his hair ... **The Great Samu**, who recently captured the Canadian Interna-



**JIMMY VALIANT**

tional belt from **Dino Bravo**, has offered former AWA World champ **Rick Martel** a shot at the championship.

**Wildhouse Sonny Fargo**, who has been a wrestler/referee in the Carolinas for the past two decades, has retired from the sport entirely. No longer wishing to referee, Sonny has opened a bar in Charlotte, North Carolina, called "Fargo's" ... **Dick Murdoch** should be in the World Championship area by the time you read this ... The WWF is, happily, apparently beginning to match rulebreaker tag



**DICK MURDOCH**

teams against rulebreaker tag teams. A recent bout in Florida, for example, saw **Dory** and **Jimmy Jack Funk** battle **Iron Sheik** and **Nikolai Volkoff**.

The column closes on a sad note this month. Longtime friend and associate **Gene Gordon**, an excellent photographer who specialized in the ladies of the mat sport, died on July 7 after a lengthy illness. He was 62 years old.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches. □

# BACK ISSUES OF



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**September 1979/Stories include:** Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.

**October 1979/Stories include:** Rich, Rhodes, Backlund, Putski.

**November 1979/Stories include:** Snuka, Heenan, Race, Backlund.

**February 1980/Stories include:** Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.

**March 1980/Stories include:** Flair, Rich, Funk, Duncum.

**April 1980/Stories include:** Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.

**May 1980/Stories include:** Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.

**June 1980/Stories include:** Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.

**July 1980/Stories include:** Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blassie.

**August 1980/Stories include:** Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.

**September 1980/Stories include:** Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.

**November 1980/Stories include:** Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

**January 1981/Stories include:** Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.

**February 1981/Stories include:** Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.

**April 1981/Stories include:** Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

**May 1981/Stories include:** Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

**June 1981/Stories include:** Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

**September 1981/Stories include:** Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.

**January 1982/Stories include:** Flair, Hogan, Race, Humberdink.

**February 1982/Stories include:** Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

**March 1982/Stories include:** Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

**April 1982/Stories include:** Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

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**August 1982/Stories include:** Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

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**July 1984/Stories include:** Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

**August 1984/Stories include:** Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

**September 1984/Stories include:** Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

**October 1984/Stories include:** Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

**November 1984/Stories include:** Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

**December 1984/Stories include:** Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

**January 1985/Stories include:** Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

**February 1985/Stories include:** Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

**March 1985/Stories include:** Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

**April 1985/Stories include:** Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

**May 1985/Stories include:** Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

**June 1985/Stories include:** Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

**July 1985/Stories include:** Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

**August 1985/Stories include:** Wrestlingmania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.

**September 1985/Stories include:** Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

**October 1985/Stories include:** Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

**November 1985/Stories include:** Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

**December 1985/Stories include:** Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

**January 1986/Stories include:** Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

**February 1986/Stories include:** R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

**March 1986/Stories include:** Windham & Rotundo, Warriors vs. Russians, Hillbilly Jim, Rude, Lawler.

**April 1986/Stories include:** Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

**May 1986/Stories include:** Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.

**June 1986/Stories include:** British Bulldogs, Windham-Ric Flair, Lance Von Erich, Blanchard.

**July 1986/All-American Special Issue.** Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, Magnum T.A.

**August 1986/Stories include:** Hogan at WrestleMania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones, Williams.

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**February 1981/**Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

**March 1981/**Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

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**December 1981/**Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

**January 1982/**Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

**March 1982/**Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

**April 1982/**Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

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**October 1983/**Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

**November 1983/**Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

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**January 1984/**Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

**March 1984/**Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

**April 1984/**Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

**May 1984/**Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

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**July 1984/**Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

**August 1984/**Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

**September 1984/**Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

**October 1984/**Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

**November 1984/**Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

**December 1984/**Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

**January 1985/**Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

**February 1985/**Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

**March 1985/**Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

**April 1985/**Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

**May 1985/**Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

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**August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION!** Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

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# THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

*[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on this magazine.]*

**A**S EVIDENCE OF the growing mental and emotional disintegration of American youth, I offer you the following pieces of mail I have received in response to my September 1986 "Insider," the column in which I attempted to quell the mindless hysteria lately generated by The Rock 'n' Roll Express. That my efforts went largely unappreciated is something I can live with. This space, after all, is nothing if it is not a forum for conflicting theory. However, I was shocked by the vacuousness, the utter lack of bone and substance by which these letters were characterized—the IQ of the typical Rock 'n' Roll Express fan is so low as to be obscene. I was forced to check the return addresses of most letters to convince myself they didn't all originate from the same mental institution.

Dear Eddie Ellner,

I don't think you have the right to say bad things about The Rock 'n' Roll Express. They are the greatest people in the world. Show this letter to them and have them say something about it on television. I wrote this letter in different colors because I love them. The only slugscum around here is you.

P.S. Have Robert and Ricky



Express a few harmless opinions about a couple of harmless wrestlers and you get besieged by mail. Robert Gibson and Ricky Morton can rest assured that even if they don't have any skill, they have a lot of loyal fans—and they'll always know where their next meal is coming from.

call me and please have them autograph the blank piece of paper I'm sending along with this letter.

DONNA JONES  
Charlotte, NC

**It was discovered later that the blank piece of paper was actually the X-ray of Donna's skull. Don't you love the fans who insult me from one end of the universe to the other, but then get all conciliatory when they think I can get them Rick Morton's autograph? What a bunch of geeks.**

Dear Eddie Ellner,

I think you are a low-down dirty rat for your comments about The Rock 'n' Roll Express. You can stick anything you have to say about the greatest tag team right up your butt. How's that for telling someone where they can stick it?

JENNIE CONN  
Bellingham, WA

**So eloquent are your remarks, Jennie, that I'm sure it's just a matter of time before a large newspaper chain offers to put your ideas into syndication.**

Mr. Ellner,

You said some things about The Rock 'n' Roll Express that I don't exactly appreciate. They are the cutest things on earth. Watching them wrestle sends me to heaven. If you like the bad boys, then that is your problem. I like Ricky and Robert, so there!!!!

DAWN BROOKS  
Darrington, WA

**I want those of you who might accuse me of editing these responses to know that I triple-checked the number of exclamation points at the end of of Dawn's letter. So there.**

Hey Ellner,

It's actually sort of funny,  
(Continued on page 20)



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# THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 18)



Gibson appears to be real angry about my September column (above). Imagine how angry he'd be if he could read! The only belts Morton will wear are the ones he can buy in a store (right).

though, a middle-aged freak like yourself (who reminds me of bent-out-of-shape pipe cleaner with a burnt tip) getting jealous over The Rock 'n' Roll Express. Hell, Ed, I thought you would have given up that obnoxious, prepubescent whining of yours by now.

Only twelve year olds like The Rock 'n' Roll Express, huh? I'm a 21-year-old woman whose magnificent proportions would make you wish for my phone number. Bottom line, Ed: You couldn't see quality if it walked up and stared you in the face. Morton and Gibson have the quality and quantity that you lack, you illiterate snot nose.

STEVANI WALSH  
Brownsville, PA

Only the creeping senility that is fast on the heels of my advancing middle age could endow me with the patience to answer this letter. Stevani illustrates my point about the fans who cheer the R & R Express—they all act like pre-adolescents even if they are really 21 years



old boasting bodies of proportions that incite phone calls. I wonder if I've spotted Stevani in the adult section of my bookstore without even knowing it.

I don't know why proof of their collective cretinism should surprise me, since I've met exhibits at the Bronx Zoo smarter than

Rick Morton and Robert Gibson. For those who missed it, I would like to recall a bit of the toss your cookies Q & A section featuring Robbie and Ricky that appeared in the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Super Color Poster Special X-P-Aladocious #5*. This should illuminate their basic stupidity.

**What Rock Music do you like the most?**

**Rick Morton:** "Oh, all kinds. Mainly I like Dire Straits, a little money for nothing and chicks for free!"

**What are your favorite movies?**

**Rick Morton:** "I like all Cheech and Chong movies, especially *Up*

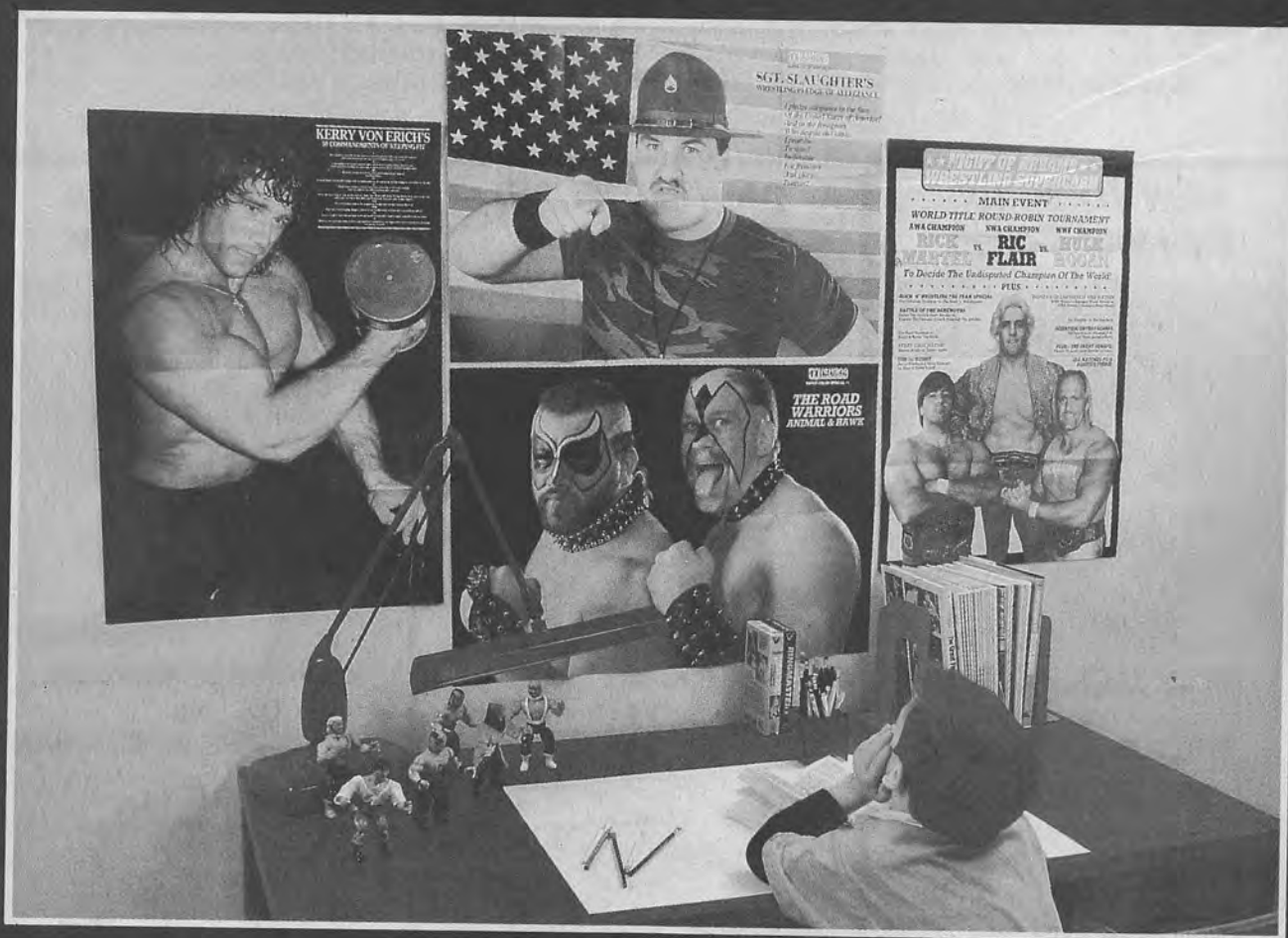
*In Smoke.*"

**Robert Gibson:** "The whole Rocky series. I love 'em!

Fret not, parents, for next month I shall reveal the plan that will not only rid the country of these influential morons, but also remove most of the brain-dead youth they've influenced. □



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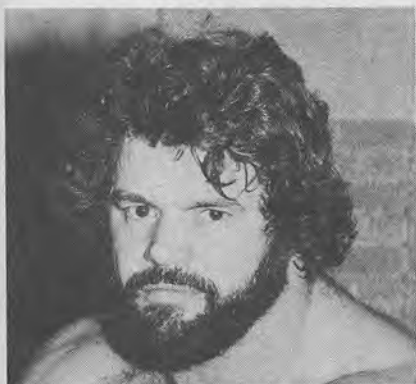


# NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

## NEW YORK, NY By Jason Cohen



**BILLY JACK HAYNES**  
vs.  
**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**



In Haynes' first Madison Square Garden match, he was to be tested by Brutus Beefcake. With Johnny Valiant serving as a distraction at ringside, Haynes, Brutus attacked Haynes from behind. Beefcake missed a flying fistdrop, but it wasn't enough for Billy to gain control. Seconds later, though, Haynes reversed Beefcake's attempted suplex. With Brutus stunned, Haynes clotheslined him. Valiant tripped Billy, the ref saw it, and Haynes won by disqualification.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Bruno Sammartino & Tito Santana defeated Randy Savage & Adrian Adonis in a bloody cage match ... Jimmy Hart won a \$50,000 22-man battle royal ... The British Bulldogs beat The Moondogs ... Greg Valentine and Junkyard Dog wrestled to a double-countout.

## BALTIMORE, MD By Rick Heiger



**WAHOO McDANIEL**  
vs.  
**JIM GARVIN**



McDaniel dominated the start of this Indian strap match by pulling, whipping, and chopping Garvin around the ring. Garvin took the advantage when the action went out of the ring by pulling Wahoo into the steel posts. Garvin made one attempt to win the match, but at the end he was no match for Wahoo as the Indian touched all four corners of the ring to win.

**OTHER BOUTS:** The Rock 'n' Roll Express & Dusty Rhodes beat Ric Flair, Arn & Ole Anderson in an elimination match ... The Road Warriors beat The Midnight Express by disqualification ... Magnum T.A. beat Nikita Koloff in a Texas death match ... Ron Garvin beat Tully Blanchard.

## OAKLAND, CA By Joe DiVito



**NICK BOCKWINKEL**  
vs.  
**NORD THE BARBARIAN**

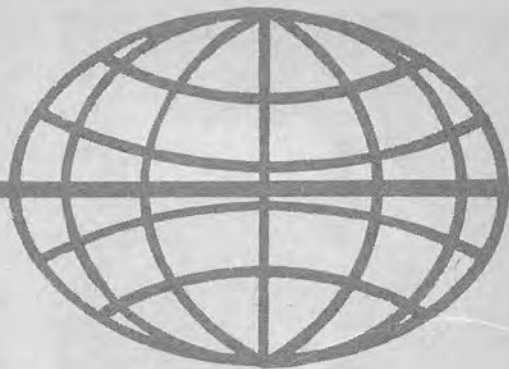


This match took place while Stan Hansen was still AWA champ, and the winner was assured of a title shot. Bockwinkel and Nord went at each other with savage ferocity. Both exchanged punches, then Bockwinkel dropkicked Nord over the top rope. Nord came back and hurt Nick with several kicks to the ribs. The two men went out of the ring, and Bockwinkel slammed Nord's arm into the ringpost. They returned to the ring, where Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie punched Nick in the head. Nick was then kicked by Nord, and pinned as Nord's feet were on the ropes.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Jerry Blackwell beat Stan Hansen by disqualification ... The Midnight Rockers & Curt Hennig beat Playboy Buddy Rose, Doug Somers, & Alexis Smirnoff ... Jimmy Snuka beat Jay York.



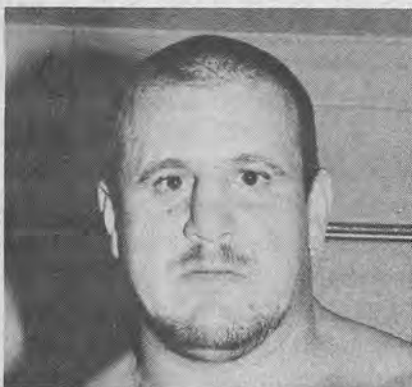
# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## DETROIT, MI By Jim Knause



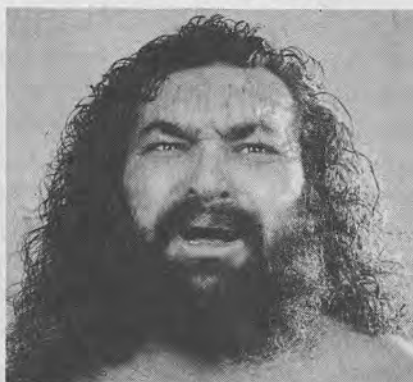
**CPL. KIRCHNER  
vs.  
NIKOLAI VOLKOFF**



This was a special boot camp match. Volkoff started out by singing the Russian "revolutionary" anthem. Kirchner charged the ring and beat Volkoff with a series of low blows. Volkoff threw Kirchner to the floor and beat him with a chair and the timekeeper's table. The two returned to the ring and went at it until both were bloody and exhausted. With both men on their backs and nearly unconscious, Kirchner put his hand on Volkoff's chest to get up and the ref made the three-count.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Junkyard Dog beat Randy Savage by countout ... Magnificent Muraco beat Paul Orndorff by disqualification ... The Killer Bees beat Brutus Beefcake & Greg Valentine ... George Steele beat Tiger Chung Lee.

## PROVIDENCE, RI By Jean Povliot



**BRUISER BRODY  
vs.  
ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**



In the main event, Brody and Abdullah wrestled another chapter in their violent feud. Just as Brody was to get in the ring, Abdullah attacked him with a bat. Several vicious attacks to Brody's head caused major bleeding. Brody came back, took his boot off, and hit Abdullah in the head with it, making The Butcher bleed profusely. The match, totally out of control, was ruled a double-disqualification.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Kevin Von Erich beat One Man Gang ... Lance Von Erich and Steve Simpson defeated Buzz Sawyer and Matt Borne ... Chris Adams beat Rick Rude ... Brian Adidas defeated The Grappler.

## CLEVELAND, OH By Kelly Dombrowski



**DUSTY RHODES  
vs.  
ARN ANDERSON**



Dusty had control of the match until Arn hit Dusty's leg several times and left him lying in the middle of the ring. He then "accidentally" knocked out the referee and brought a chair into the ring. But Dusty got it away from him and used it. The referee, awake by now, saw this and disqualified Dusty.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Ric Flair and Ronnie Garvin were both counted out of the ring ... Magnum T.A. and Tully Blanchard fought to a double-disqualification ... The Road Warriors defeated Ivan & Nikita Koloff in a Russian chain match ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat The Midnight Express by disqualification.



# Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

**DALLAS, TX:** This town is not healthy for a reporter's psyche. It seems as if every time I'm down in Dallas, something horrible happens that depresses the stuffing out of me and makes me vow never to return. Back in February, there were the Gino Hernandez-Chris Adams dual tragedies and then there was that Missy Hyatt and Sunshine mud match in May. In early June, I just happened to be in Dallas when Kerry Von Erich nearly mutilated himself in a motorcycle accident and when that happened, I decided this state was jinxed. But I'm a reporter, and



**CHRIS ADAMS**

what was I supposed to do when an airplane ticket to Dallas for July 4 showed up in my mailbox? Our nation's birthday and I was to spend it suffering while who knows what latest World Class horror would be inflicted on our souls. Much to my surprise, however, the Fourth of July in Reunion Arena turned out to be one of the most uplifting days in recent memory. Mike Von Erich's return to the ring (I neglected to mention his near-fatal illness on the list of Dallas horror tales) brought chills over this time-hardened scribe's body, although his wrestling—as expected—left much to be desired, and then Chris Adams shocked everybody by winning the title from Rick Rude. This was one of those days that you store in the scrapbook of your mind and take out whenever things are going wrong. Who could have thought that it would happen here?

**CINCINNATI, OH:** Brace yourselves, you overweight, unshaven women's libbers out there, but I'll be the first to say that a broad does not, repeat, does not belong in the ring, unless she's The Fabulous Moolah, an exception to all rules of natural selection. When I heard that Baby Doll would be wrestling in six-man tag team matches during The Great American Bash cards, I was naturally skeptical. So much so that I was planning on catching a quick beer and a trip to the bathroom while The Rock 'n' Roll Express and Baby Doll vs. The Midnight Express and Jim Cornette match was going on here. Fortunately, curiosity, and a little bit of the ol' reporter's instinct, got the best of me and I had the chance to witness an extraordinarily brave display of womanhood by Baby Doll. Jim Cornette and his tennis racket would be better off at Forest Hills than in a wrestling ring, because it was pretty obvious that he was no match for Baby Doll. Apparently, there's nothing more dangerous than a woman's wrath, something I should have learned from an ex-girlfriend. The cowardly Cornette tried everything he



## Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

could to avoid Baby Doll, but when Baby Doll did get him, she got him good. In this reporter's eyes, Baby Doll has earned her spot in the mat sport.

**FOXBORO, MA:** Let this serve notice that Harley Race, make that the legendary Harley Race, he of NWA fame, is alive and kicking and living in the World Wrestling Federation. He also made many of us, who thought Race was washed up and prolonging an otherwise great career, look like fools. I expected the worst for the July 14 "King Of The Ring" tournament at Sullivan Stadium, especially since the head clown, Hulk Hogan, was not on the card. But at the very least, Roddy Piper was due to make his return. Well, Piper was out early when both he and Muraco were disqualified, and then Race won by disqualification over George Steele. As luck would have it, Race drew a bye in the second



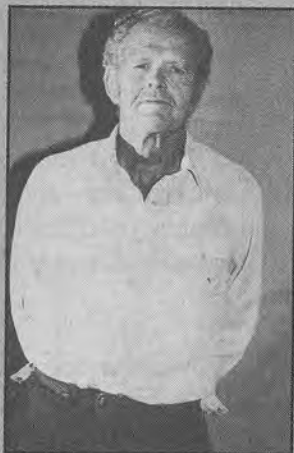
GEORGE STEELE VS. HARLEY RACE

round and then, in one of the most incredible performances of his incredible career, he defeated young star Billy Jack Haynes by countout. In the final, Race pinned Pedro Morales, although Pedro did have his foot on the ropes after the two-count and the referee chose to turn the other cheek. It was like *deja vu* seeing Race walking around the ring victorious, and even the fans' thoughtless—and in this case entirely unjustified—chants of "Bor-ing! Bor-ing!" couldn't lessen the pleasure of seeing this ring legend have one last hurrah.

**HOUSTON, TX:** Eddie Gilbert is a mental case. There, I said it, and Gilbert can sue me all the way up to the Supreme Court and I'll stand by my words. First of all, only an extremely stupid person would take on a powerful man like Bill Watts and then continue the battle, even after all is hopelessly lost. There can be no doubt that Watts taught Gilbert a lesson, just like he said he would. So in an effort to regroup and rebuild his rapidly disappearing stable, Gilbert joined forces with Missy Hyatt, that blonde package of endless cleavage. Now, it appears as if there might be a love connection, which seems kind of strange to me since Hyatt is hooked up with John Tatum and Gilbert is liable to be crushed under Missy's heavy endowment. Add to this the fact that Gilbert has already been kicked around by Watts and might be asking for trouble if he steals Tatum's girl. Anyway, Tatum appears to be oblivious to any fooling around, because he and Missy Hyatt were at ringside for a recent tag team match pitting Gilbert and Sting against The Fantastics. Missy figured in the outcome when she climbed up on the ring apron and slugged Tommy Rogers with her Gucci pocketbook (another question: how can Gilbert afford Hyatt's extravagant taste?). Rogers was knocked out and Gilbert covered him for the pin, meaning that Gilbert and Sting are the new UWF tag team champions. As I said, though, Gilbert is a maniac and has totally lost control of his own situation. Two things I can guarantee: The Fantastics will get revenge against the new champions and Tatum will dump Gilbert into the Gulf of Mexico if he continues to court Missy Hyatt. □

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## **BUDDY FULLER**

The father of Ron and Robert Fuller was a great competitor in his own right in the mid-'50s through the '60s. Buddy is now a talent scout for both Florida and Continental wrestling. He also owns several farms in Florida

and is making a good living selling produce. "Buddy is as talented a farmer as a wrestler," said one of his neighbors, Bob Murphy. "I had some of his vegetables for dinner one night and they were delicious."



## **BEAUTIFUL BOBBY**

The man who invented "The Bobby Lock" has remained heavily involved in pro wrestling. Beautiful Bobby, whose real name is Bob Harmon, currently lives in Cincinnati, where he trains wrestlers. He also works

with the Ohio State Athletic Commission and is a ring announcer at various shows. "Wrestling is my life," said Bobby, "and I plan to stay in it until the day I die. I can't think of a more worthwhile profession."



## **KEVIN SULLIVAN**

Whether or not the devil made him do it is up for argument, but after Kevin Sullivan left Florida, he headed for upstate New York and the New England area, where he has continued to wrestle and spread Satan's

message. But God-fearing wrestling fans in the South still have cause for concern. Sullivan is about to sign with Southeast Continental Wrestling and plans to go after Wendell Cooley's Southeast title.



## **RODDY PIPER**

The whereabouts of Roddy Piper were, for some time, the most talked about topic in the sport, until early July, when he appeared in Foxboro, Massachusetts, to wrestle in the WWF's "King of the Ring"

tournament. Prior to that, Piper starred in his first movie, *Body Slam*, and went on a long wrestling tour of the Middle East. He is currently considering several movie offers, as well as contracts for various wrestling dates.



# INSIDE WRESTLING

124

## capsule profile

### DICK SLATER

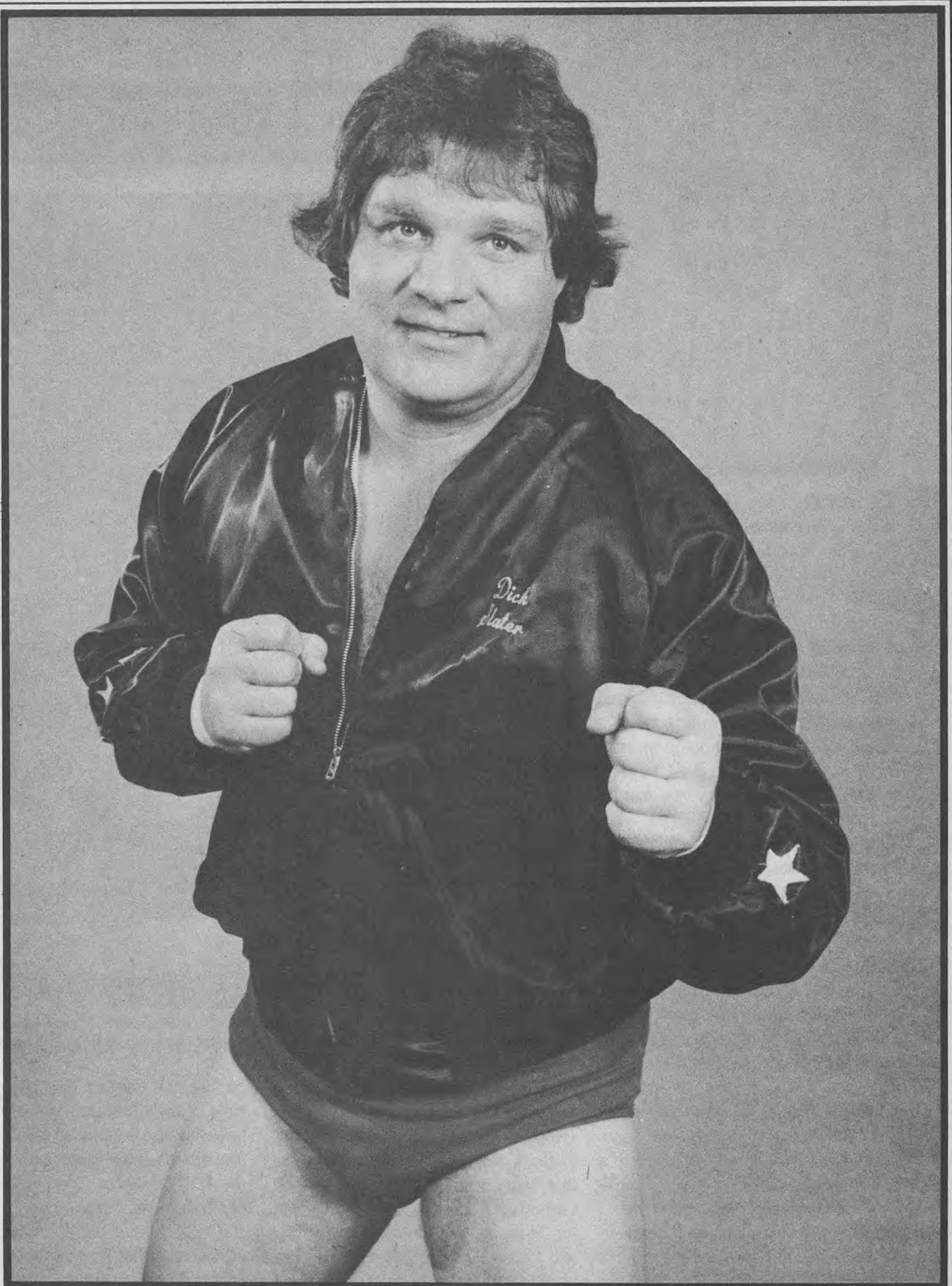
**S**TANDING 6'1" AND weighing in at 235 pounds, the Tampa, Florida, native has long been known as "Dirty" Dick Slater and "Mr. Unpredictable" because of his unorthodox ring tactics (*"I never wrestle the same style twice in any match"*) ... Grew up in Florida, where he excelled in high school wrestling, football, and track and field (*"One time I threw a discus through the school principal's window; when he found out where I threw it from, he shook my hand!"*) ... Refused scholarship offers from some of the top schools in the country, opting instead for the local University of Tampa (*"I thought a change of location might affect my athletic performance somehow; I didn't want to fool around with a successful formula"*) ... Decided to join the ranks of pro wrestling during his senior year of college (*"The wrestling season was over, and I had nothing better to do"*) ... Slater, then weighing 195 pounds, convinced Eddie Graham to watch him spar against a 280-pound opponent; Slater pinned his man with a dazzling array of moves (*"As I expected, Graham was impressed"*) ... Sparred with Mike Graham in preparation for his first pro match against Greg Peterson in 1970 in Tampa (*"Everyone I knew was there; it was a case of win or leave town!"*) ... Was managed for a time in Florida by Gary



Dick Slater's knuckles are stained with blood as he pounds Jake Roberts into semiconsciousness during a match in Houston. Now that Slater has followed Roberts into the WWF, it is likely that their rivalry will be renewed.

Hart, who led Slater to the Florida and Southern titles (*"Gary taught me aggressiveness"*) ... Hart brought Slater to the Georgia area, and it was there that Slater teamed with Cowboy Bob Orton to capture the Georgia National tag team belts from Bob Armstrong and Robert Fuller in July 1975 ... Defeated Jack Brisco for the Missouri title in August 1977, and held the belt until being defeated by Ted DiBiase in February 1978 (*"Jack was a hell of an*

*opponent; I respect him greatly"*) ... Held many titles around the country, including the Southwest title and Mid-Atlantic championship, and captured the U.S. title from Greg Valentine on December 14, 1983 (*"Greg is a rugged, rugged man, and for a long time I considered that victory the greatest match of my career"*) ... Recently appeared in the WWF, where he is wrestling under the name "The Southern Rebel" Dick Slater. □



**DICK SLATER**



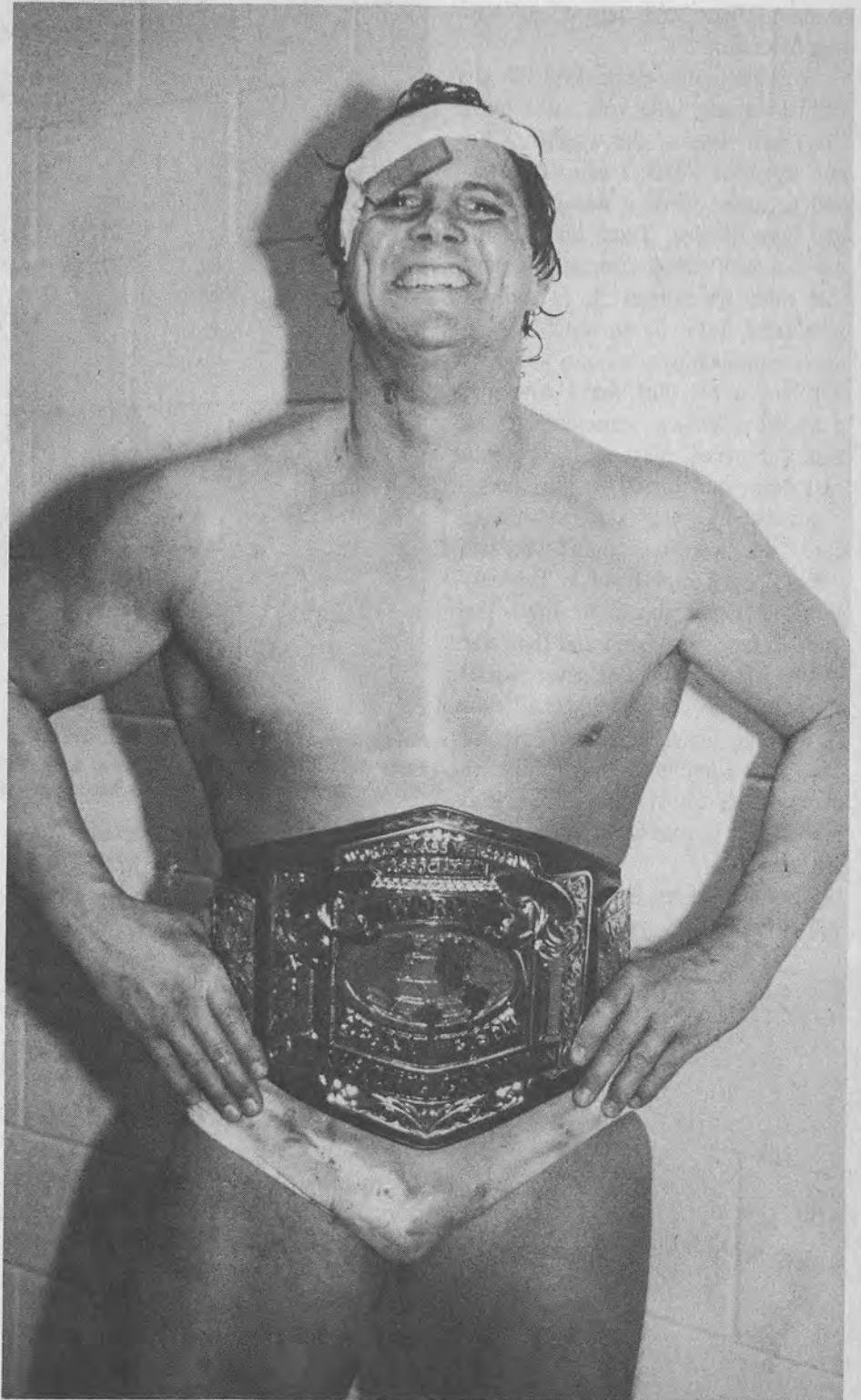
**An Amazing Story Continues:**

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**CHRIS  
ADAMS  
WINS  
THE  
WORLD  
CLASS  
TITLE  
FROM  
RICK  
RUDE!**

---

**C**HRIS ADAMS WILL never forget a phone call he received at his home in Stratford on Avon, England, in early March. As Adams tells it, he was lounging



***When Chris Adams regained his sight and returned to the wrestling ring, he had overcome what doctors termed impossible odds. But when Adams beat Rick Rude for the World Class heavyweight championship, nothing short of a miracle had taken place***

*Photos by Buddy Myers*

around his house, deeply depressed over the fate that had befallen him, wondering if he would ever see again, trying to figure out why it had happened to him.

"I picked up the phone and this guy with a weaselly little voice asks me if I'm Chris Adams, the wrestler," Adams explains. "Well, I said that I was, and he asked me if it was true that I had been blinded. Then, this guy tells me that he's calling from this carnival that tours the United States and was wondering if I'd be interested in joining his production as a blind wrestler. I told him he was nuts, that I'd never be a sideshow freak at some carnival and that if he ever called again, I'd hunt him down and break his little neck."

Adams' face was now red with anger. "Sideshow freak, huh?" he said. "Well, here I am. Blind in February, World Class champion in July. They said I'd never see again and they were wrong. They said I'd never wrestle again and they were wrong. All those fools, they underestimated Chris Adams. Rick Rude and Percy Pringle underestimated Chris Adams. Ask Rude how it feels to lose to a man with only one eye."

Actually, Adams has regained nearly full vision, but the patch he wears over



Rude puts Adams on his back after a right-left combination. At this point in the match, many observers felt that Adams had rushed too quickly into a title match.

his left eye while wrestling serves as an ever-present reminder of how far he's come and how far he has to go. Make no mistake about it. Chris Adams is not wrestling at 100 percent, and the fact that he beat Rick Rude for the World Class title is far more than amazing. It's one of the great miracles of modern sports history.

Think about it for a second. Has any sporting event of the past 50 years rivaled what Adams has done? Associating the term "miracle" with a sporting event is often done but rarely appropriate. When the U.S. Olympic hockey team stunned the Soviets in the 1980 Olympics, it was called a miracle. But over the years, it became obvious that the United States' players were more talented than anybody had thought. The Miracle Mets of 1969? Simply a case of great pitching coming together all at once.

But on July 4, 1986, at Dallas' Reunion Arena, it was truly wrestling's night of miracles. First, Mike Von Erich returned to the ring for the first

time since his battle with toxic shock syndrome and received a standing ovation from the 11,800 people in attendance. Mike, Kevin, and Lance Von Erich beat Matt Borne, Butch Reed, and Buzz Sawyer. But even more incredible—no, miraculous—was Chris Adams' victory over Rick Rude.

Certainly, it didn't look as though Adams would have a chance to win when referee David Manning was knocked out and Rude took control with a full nelson. But Percy Pringle, who has made it a habit to interfere in Rude's matches, climbed up onto the top rope with his cane and prepared to jump on Adams. But Adams ducked and Pringle hit Rude instead. Just as this happened, Manning recovered and Adams covered Rude for the title.

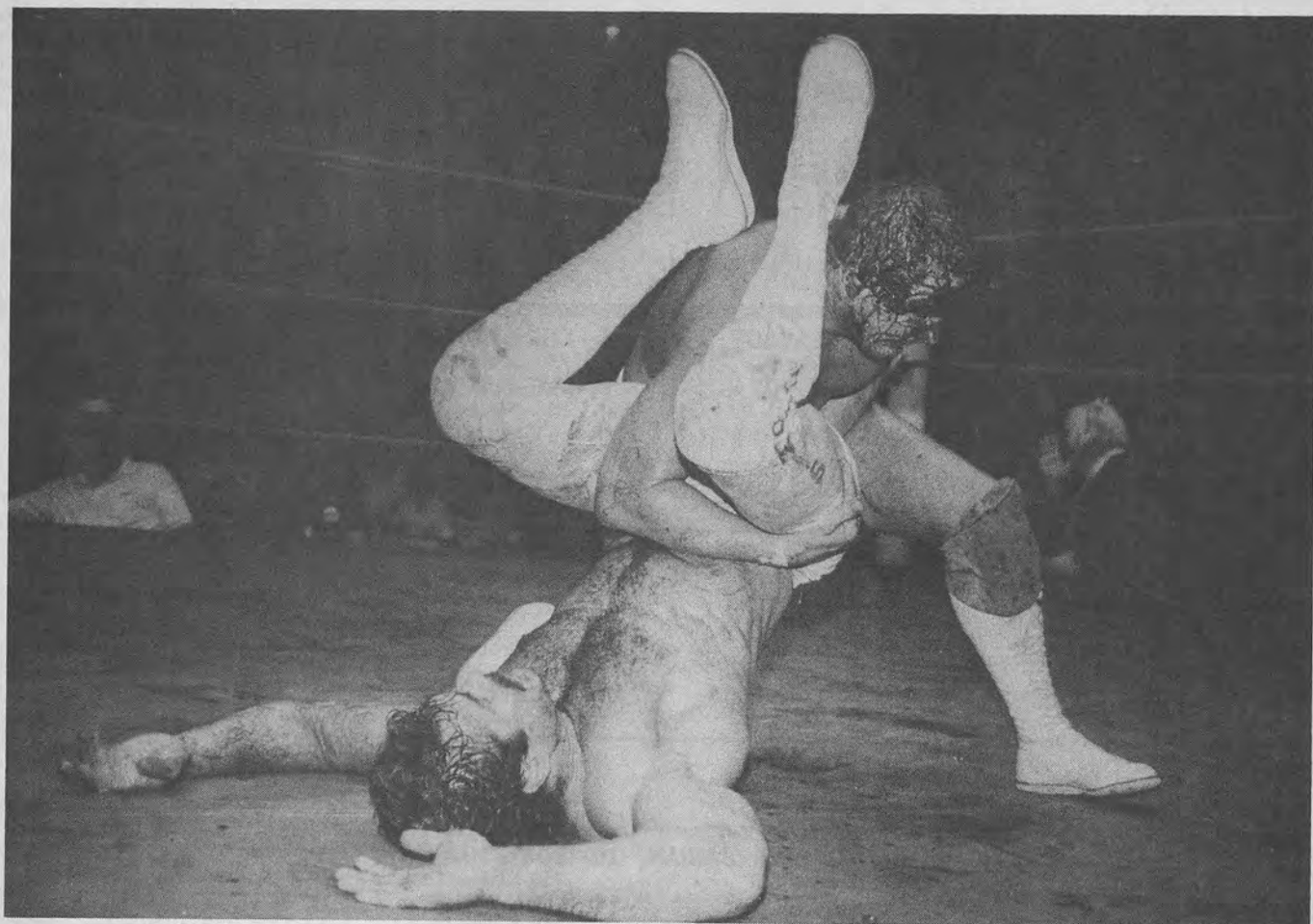
There was a bit of irony in the way Adams won the match. When the World Class seceded from the NWA earlier this year and dumped the controversial disqualification rule in favor of a new ruling that allowed titles to

*(Continued on page 56)*

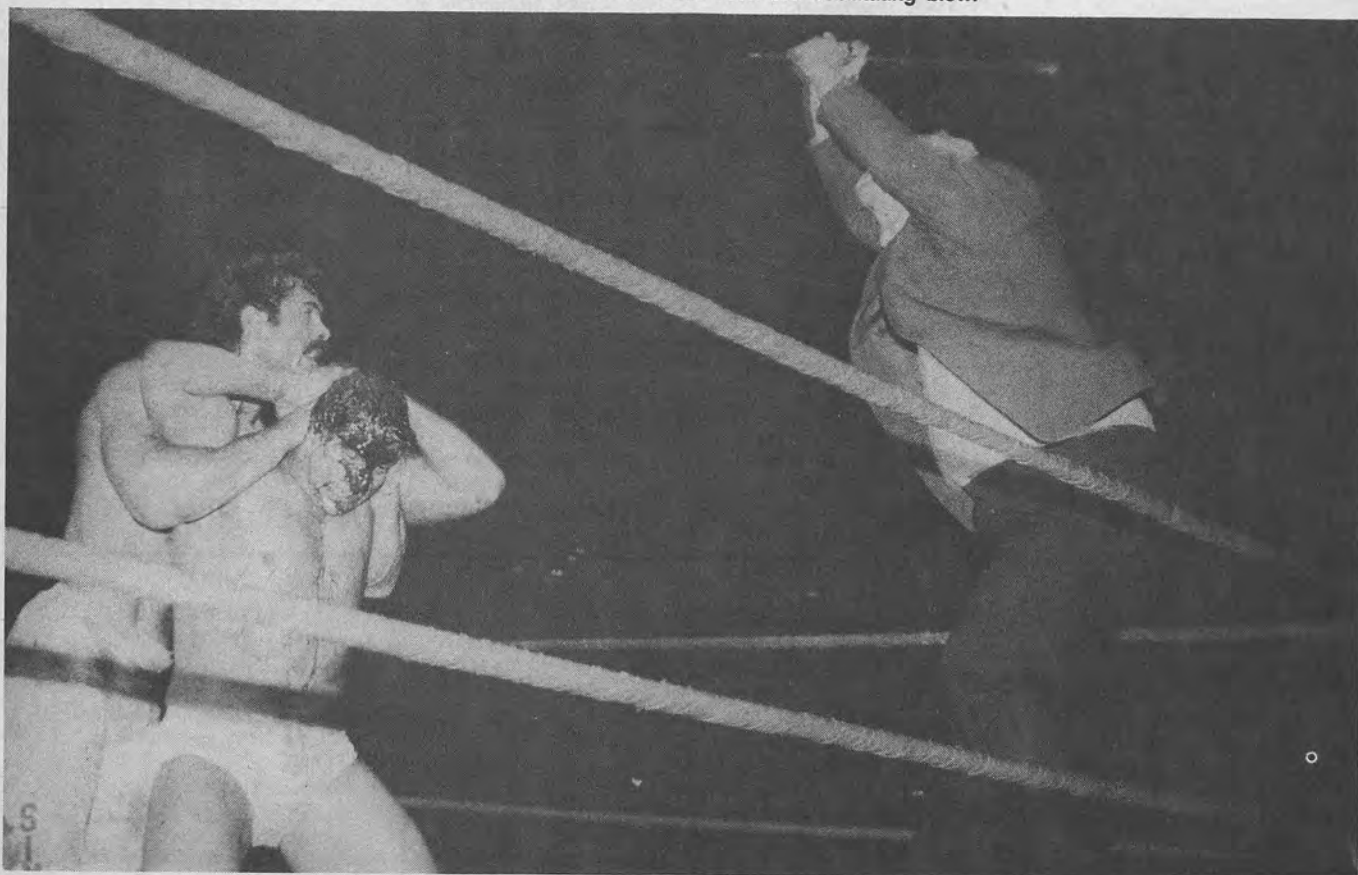


Chris was unable to put Rude away with his sleeper, but the hold did help him get back into the match.





Having sustained a serious facial wound, Adams sensed that his strength would not hold up, so he attempted several quick pinning combinations (above). Pringle tries to take advantage of the referee's grogginess as he launches an attack from the turnbuckles (below). Adams, however, managed to work his way out of Rude's full-nelson in time and Rude took the debilitating blow.



# INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

## TOP 15

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>302, Venice Beach, CA  | 4— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>245, Sarasota, FL         | 8— <b>CHRIS ADAMS</b><br>230, Stratford, England   | 12— <b>BRUISER BRODY</b><br>284, Albuquerque, NM  |
| 2— <b>DUSTY RHODES</b><br>302, Austin, TX      | 5— <b>TERRY GORDY</b><br>289, Chatanooga, TN        | 9— <b>MAGNUM T.A.</b><br>245, Chesapeake, VA       | 13— <b>HACKSAW DUGGAN</b><br>280, Glens Falls, NY |
| 3— <b>NIKITA KOLOFF</b><br>275, Moscow, Russia | 6— <b>NICK BOCKWINKEL</b><br>245, Beverly Hills, CA | 10— <b>LEX LUGAR</b><br>280, Chicago, IL           | 14— <b>RICK RUDE</b><br>246, Robbinsdale, MN      |
|  | 7— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>243, Minneapolis, MN         | 11— <b>TULLY BLANCHARD</b><br>235, San Antonio, TX | 15— <b>LANCE VON ERICH</b><br>260, Arlington, TX  |

## NWA

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1— <b>DUSTY RHODES</b><br>302, Austin, TX         | 4— <b>MAGNUM T.A.</b><br>245, Chesapeake, VA   | 8— <b>RICK MORTON</b><br>228, Memphis, TN          | 12— <b>RIP OLIVER</b><br>245, Tampa, FL           |
| 2— <b>NIKITA KOLOFF</b><br>275, Moscow, Russia    | 5— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>243, Minneapolis, MN    | 9— <b>LEX LUGAR</b><br>280, Chicago                | 13— <b>RONNIE GARVIN</b><br>231, Montreal, Quebec |
| 3— <b>TULLY BLANCHARD</b><br>235, San Antonio, TX | 6— <b>TERRY GORDY</b><br>289, Chatanooga, TN   | 10— <b>BRUISER BRODY</b><br>284, Albuquerque, NM   | 14— <b>ROBERT GIBSON</b><br>225, Pensacola, FL    |
|   | 7— <b>BARRY WINDHAM</b><br>236, Sweetwater, TX | 11— <b>RICK MARTEL</b><br>236, Quebec City, Quebec | 15— <b>THE BULLET</b><br>234, parts unknown       |

## AWA

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1— <b>NICK BOCKWINKEL</b><br>245, Beverly Hills, CA | 4— <b>STAN HANSEN</b><br>303, Borger, TX               | 8— <b>JIMMY SNUKA</b><br>251, Fiji Islands        | 12— <b>GREG GAGNE</b><br>220, Robbinsdale, MN          |
| 2— <b>SGT. SLAUGHTER</b><br>310, Parris Island, SC  | 5— <b>SCOTT HALL</b><br>290, Minneapolis, MN           | 9— <b>BRUISER BRODY</b><br>284, Albuquerque, NM   | 13— <b>EARTHQUAKE FERRIS</b><br>380, San Francisco, CA |
| 3— <b>LARRY ZBYSZKO</b><br>248, Pittsburgh, PA      | 6— <b>NORD THE BARBARIAN</b><br>316, Bozeman, MT       | 10— <b>BORIS ZUKHOV</b><br>254, Leningrad, Russia | 14— <b>BRAD RHEINGANS</b><br>248, Appleton, MN         |
|   | 7— <b>COL. DeBEERS</b><br>265, Cape Town, South Africa | 11— <b>LEON WHITE</b><br>303, Denver, CO          | 15— <b>RICK MARTEL</b><br>236, Quebec City, Quebec     |

## WWF

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>305, Venice Beach, CA | 4— <b>JAKE ROBERTS</b><br>246, Stone Mountain, GA     | 8— <b>ADRIAN ADONIS</b><br>303, New York, NY        | 12— <b>TITO SANTANA</b><br>245, Toluca, Mexico |
| 2— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>245, Sarasota, FL   | 5— <b>PAUL ORNDORFF</b><br>253, Brandon, FL           | 9— <b>KING KONG BUNDY</b><br>468, Atlantic City, NJ | 13— <b>JUNKYARD DOG</b><br>280, Charlotte, NC  |
| 3— <b>RICK STEAMBOAT</b><br>238, Honolulu, HI | 6— <b>MAGNIFICENT MURACO</b><br>274, Sunset Beach, HI | 10— <b>DICK SLATER</b><br>247, Pittsburgh, PA       | 14— <b>KING TONGA</b><br>275, Tonga            |
|   | 7— <b>JOHN STUDD</b><br>364, Los Angeles, CA          | 11— <b>HARLEY RACE</b><br>255, Kansas City, MO      | 15— <b>CPL. KIRCHNER</b><br>240, Ft. Bragg, NC |

## MOST POPULAR

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>305, Venice Beach, CA | 4— <b>HACKSAW DUGGAN</b><br>280, Glens Falls, NY | 8— <b>TERRY TAYLOR</b><br>225, Vero Beach, FL   | 12— <b>SCOTT HALL</b><br>290, Minneapolis, MN  |
| 2— <b>DUSTY RHODES</b><br>302, Austin, TX     | 5— <b>RICK MORTON</b><br>228, Memphis, TN        | 9— <b>LANCE VON ERICH</b><br>260, Arlington, TX | 13— <b>TITO SANTANA</b><br>245, Toluca, Mexico |
| 3— <b>RICK STEAMBOAT</b><br>238, Honolulu, HI | 6— <b>LEX LUGAR</b><br>280, Chicago, IL          | 10— <b>ROBERT GIBSON</b><br>225, Pensacola, FL  | 14— <b>STEVE WILLIAMS</b><br>265, Tulsa, OK    |
|   | 7— <b>MAGNUM T.A.</b><br>245, Chesapeake, VA     | 11— <b>BARRY WINDHAM</b><br>230, Sweetwater, TX | 15— <b>JERRY LAWLER</b><br>234, Memphis, TN    |

## MOST HATED

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1— <b>NIKITA KOLOFF</b><br>275, Moscow, Russia | 4— <b>PAUL ORNDORFF</b><br>253, Brandon, FL       | 8— <b>JIM GARVIN</b><br>235, Tampa, FL               | 12— <b>MICHAEL HAYES</b><br>255, Marietta, GA           |
| 2— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>245, Sarasota, FL    | 5— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>243, Minneapolis           | 9— <b>STAN HANSEN</b><br>303, Borger, TX             | 13— <b>ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER</b><br>360, Sudan           |
| 3— <b>TERRY GORDY</b><br>289, Chatanooga, TN   | 6— <b>JAKE ROBERTS</b><br>246, Stone Mountain, GA | 10— <b>TULLY BLANCHARD</b><br>235, San Antonio, TX   | 14— <b>MAGNIFICENT MURACO</b><br>274, Sunset Beach, HI  |
|  | 7— <b>RICK RUDE</b><br>246, Robbinsdale, MN       | 11— <b>KING KONG BUNDY</b><br>468, Atlantic City, NJ | 15— <b>COL. DeBEERS</b><br>265, Cape Town, South Africa |

## TAG TEAMS

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1— <b>THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS</b><br>NWA World tag team champions                 | 6— <b>THE FANTASTICS</b><br>No. 1 contenders to UWF tag team title                 | 11— <b>IRON SHEIK &amp; NIKOLAI VOLKOFF</b><br>No. 3 contenders to WWF tag team title  |
| 2— <b>THE ROAD WARRIORS</b><br>No. 1 contenders to NWA World tag title         | 7— <b>THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS</b><br>No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title           | 12— <b>THE MAXX BROTHERS</b><br>No. 2 contenders to AWA tag team title                 |
| 3— <b>THE BRITISH BULLDOGS</b><br>WWF World tag team champions                 | 8— <b>BRETT HART &amp; JIM NEIDHART</b><br>No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title  | 13— <b>ED GANTNER &amp; KAREEM MUHAMMAD</b><br>No. 1 contenders to U.S. tag team title |
| 4— <b>THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS</b><br>No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title  | 9— <b>THE FABULOUS ONES</b><br>U.S. tag team champions                             | 14— <b>FIRE &amp; FLAME</b><br>Mid-Southern tag team champions                         |
| 5— <b>PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE &amp; DOUG SOMERS</b><br>AWA World tag team champions | 10— <b>RAYMOND &amp; JACQUES ROUGEAU</b><br>No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title | 15— <b>MIKE MILLER &amp; ABUGHADIEN</b><br>Pacific Northwest tag team champions        |



*These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place . . . Though several Canadian and Japanese championships are listed in the "Roll Call," the ratings themselves reflect United States-based competition. For period ended July 29, 1986*

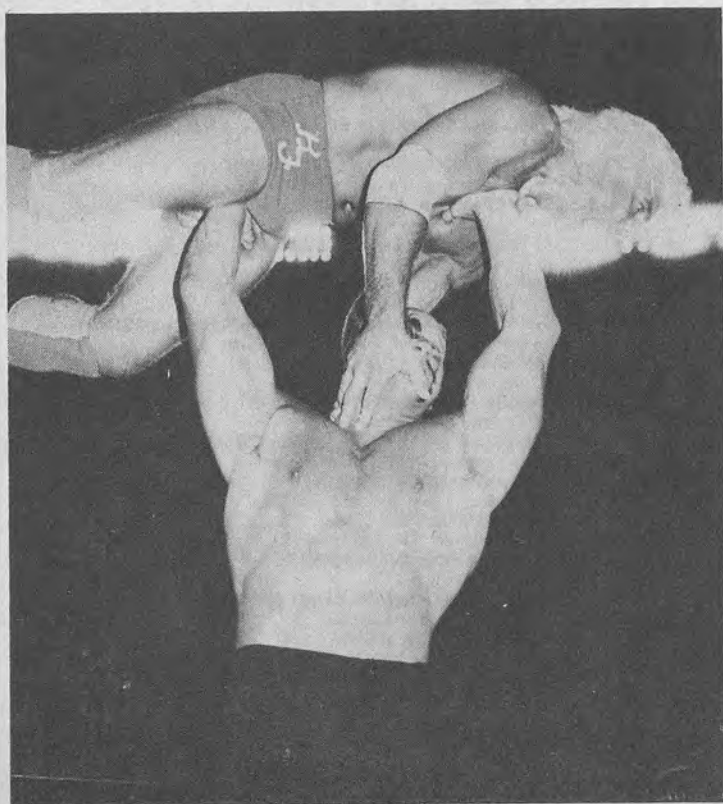
# ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

- ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**TAKASHI ISHIKAWA & MIGHTY INOUE**  
(October 31, 1985; from Isamu Teranishi & Animal Hamaguchi; Tokyo)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**  
(August 31, 1983; from Bruiser Brody; Tokyo)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**RIKI CHOSHU & YOSHIKI YATSU**  
(February 5, 1986; from Jumbo Tsuruta & Tenryu; Osaka, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Tiger Mask)
- ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: GENICHIRO TENRYU**  
(April 26, 1986; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Omiya, Japan)
- \* **AWA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP: SHERRI MARTEL**  
(June 28, 1986; from Candi Divine; Oakland, CA)
- \* **AWA WORLD CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKEL**  
(June 29, 1986; awarded by default from Stan Hansen; Denver, CO)
- AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BUDDY ROSE & DOUG SOMERS**  
(May 17, 1986; from Scott Hall & Curt Hennig; Hammond, IN)
- AMERICAS CHAMPION: SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
(June 21, 1985; from Larry Zbyszko; Chicago)
- \* **BAHAMAS CHAMPION: TYREE PRIDE**  
(July 5, 1986; from Ron Bass; Nassau, Bahamas)
- \* **CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: GREAT SAMU**  
(June 30, 1986; from Dino Bravo; Montreal, Quebec)
- CANADIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by the Long Riders)
- CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: BOB BROWN**  
(December 17, 1985; from Brett Sawyer; Ames, IA)
- \* **CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BOBBY JAGGERS & MOONDOG MORETTI**  
(June 26, 1986; from Rufus R. Jones & Mike George; Kansas City, MO)
- CENTRAL STATES TV CHAMPION: MIKE GEORGE**  
(May 23, 1986; over Akio Saito; St. Joseph, MO)
- \* **FLORIDA CHAMPION: RON BASS**  
(July 15, 1986; from Kendall Windham; Tampa, FL)
- INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING GRAND PRIX CHAMPION: ANTONIO INOKI**  
(June 19, 1986; tournament final over Dick Murdoch; Tokyo, Japan)
- IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TATSUMI FUJINAMI & KENGO KIMURA**  
(December 12, 1985; tourney final over Inoki & Sakaguchi; Sendai, Japan)
- IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NOBUHIKO TAKADA**  
(May 19, 1986; over Shiro Koshinaka; Tokyo)
- JAPANESE WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE CRUSH GIRLS**  
(March 20, 1986; from Itzuki Yamzaki & Noriyo Tateno; Osaka, Japan)
- MID-AMERICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Dutch Mantell)
- MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPION: BLACK BART**  
(March 18, 1986; from Sam Houston; Mooresville, NC)
- \* **MID-SOUTHERN CHAMPION: BAM BAM BIGELOW**  
(July 28, 1986; 23-man battle royal victory; Memphis, TN)
- \* **MID-SOUTHERN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER**  
(July 19, 1986; from Bill Dundee; Nashville, TN)
- \* **MID-SOUTHERN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: FIRE & FLAME**  
(July 18, 1986; from Jerry Lawler & Hillbilly Elmer; Jackson, TN)
- MISSOURI CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Harley Race)
- NATIONAL CHAMPION: TULLY BLANCHARD**  
(March 4, 1986; from Dusty Rhodes; Spartanburg, SC)
- NATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Ole & Arn Anderson)
- NWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DENNY BROWN**  
(September 15, 1985; from Gary Royal; Atlanta)
- NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS & DUSTY RHODES**  
(May 17, 1986; from Ivan & Nikita Koloff and Baron Von Raschke; Baltimore)
- NWA TV CHAMPION: ARN ANDERSON**  
(January 4, 1986; tournament final over Wahoo McDaniel; Charlotte, NC)
- \* **NWA WORLD CHAMPION: DUSTY RHODES**  
(July 26, 1986; from Ric Flair; Greensboro, NC)
- NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**  
(February 2, 1986; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Atlanta)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: RIP OLIVER**  
(June 13, 1986; battle royal tournament; Portland, OR)
- \* **PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MIKE MILLER & ABUGHDADIEN**  
(July 14, 1986; from Brady Boone & Cocoa Samoa; Port Angeles, WA)
- PWF CHAMPION: RIKI CHOSHU**  
(April 5, 1986; from Stan Hansen; Yokohama, Japan)
- PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & TED DIBIASE**  
(as mandated by PWF wrestling officials)
- POLYNESIAN PACIFIC CHAMPION: SUPERFLY TUI**  
(March 26, 1986; from Jerry Lawler; Honolulu)
- POLYNESIAN PACIFIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**FARMER BOY IPO & LEROY BROWN**  
(April 16, 1986; from Rocky & Ricky Johnson; Honolulu, HI)
- SOUTHEAST CHAMPION: WENDELL COOLEY**  
(March 31, 1986; from Exotic Adrian Street; Birmingham, AL)
- SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL CHAMPION: JERRY STUBBS**  
(May 12, 1986; from Brad Armstrong; Birmingham, AL)
- \* **SOUTHEAST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN**  
(July 14, 1986; from Steve Armstrong & Tommy Rich; Birmingham, AL)
- SOUTHEAST U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TIM HORNER**  
(May 19, 1986; from Tom Pritchard; Birmingham, AL)
- \* **SOUTHERN CHAMPION: MASKED SUPERSTAR**  
(July 22, 1986; from Lex Luger; Tampa, FL)
- \* **TEXAS ALL-STAR USA U.S. CHAMPION: BILLY JOE TRAVIS**  
(June 26, 1986; from Al Madril; Pasadena, TX)
- TEXAS ALL-STAR USA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Tommy Wright)
- TEXAS ALL-STAR USA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TIGER CONWAY JR. & ICEMAN PARSONS**  
(May 23, 1986; from Al Madril & Mike Golden; Houston, TX)
- U.S. CHAMPION: MAGNUM T.A.**  
(November 28, 1985; from Tully Blanchard; Greensboro, NC)
- \* **U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE FABULOUS ONES**  
(July 12, 1986; tournament final over The Shepherders; Portland, OR)
- UWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TERRY GORDY**  
(May 30, 1986; tournament final over Hacksaw Duggan; Houston, TX)
- \* **UWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: EDDIE GILBERT & BLADE RUNNER STING**  
(July 20, 1986; from The Fantastics; Tulsa, OK)
- UWF TV CHAMPION: TERRY TAYLOR**  
(May 25, 1986; from Buzz Sawyer; Tulsa, OK)
- \* **WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: CHRIS ADAMS**  
(July 4, 1986; from Bruiser Brody; Dallas, TX)
- WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS: KEVIN, LANCE, & MIKE VON ERICH**  
(May 4, 1986; from The Fabulous Freebirds; Irving, TX)
- WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Chris Adams & Gino Hernandez)
- WORLD CLASS TV CHAMPION: BUZZ SAWYER**  
(June 16, 1986; from Chris Adams; Ft. Worth, TX)
- \* **WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: BUZZ SAWYER**  
(July 4, 1986; from Brian Adisas; Dallas, TX)
- WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: THE FABULOUS MOOLAH**  
(November 25, 1985; from Wendi Richter; New York)
- WORLD WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN**  
(August 1985; from Desiree Petersen & Velvet McIntyre; Egypt)
- WWC JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: INVADER III**  
(May 4, 1986; from Chickie Starr; Caguas, Puerto Rico)
- WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Al Perez)
- WWC NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHICKY & RON STARR**  
(May 2, 1986; from Invaders I & II; Fagardo, Puerto Rico)
- \* **WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: INVADER I**  
(June 29, 1986; from Eric Embry; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE RPMs**  
(March 28, 1986; tournament final over Eric Embry & Crusher Morgan; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Carlos Colon)
- WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE**  
(February 8, 1986; from Tito Santana; Boston)
- WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN**  
(January 23, 1984; from The Iron Sheik; New York)
- WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**  
(April 7, 1986; from Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake; Rosemont, IL)

# ***Paul Ellering's Own Story***



The Road Warriors—Animal (above) and Hawk (below)—manhandled Ric Flair as no two other challengers had been able to do.



## **"HOW MY ROAD WARRIORS MADE DUSTY RHODES NWA WORLD CHAMPION"**

**By Paul Ellering**

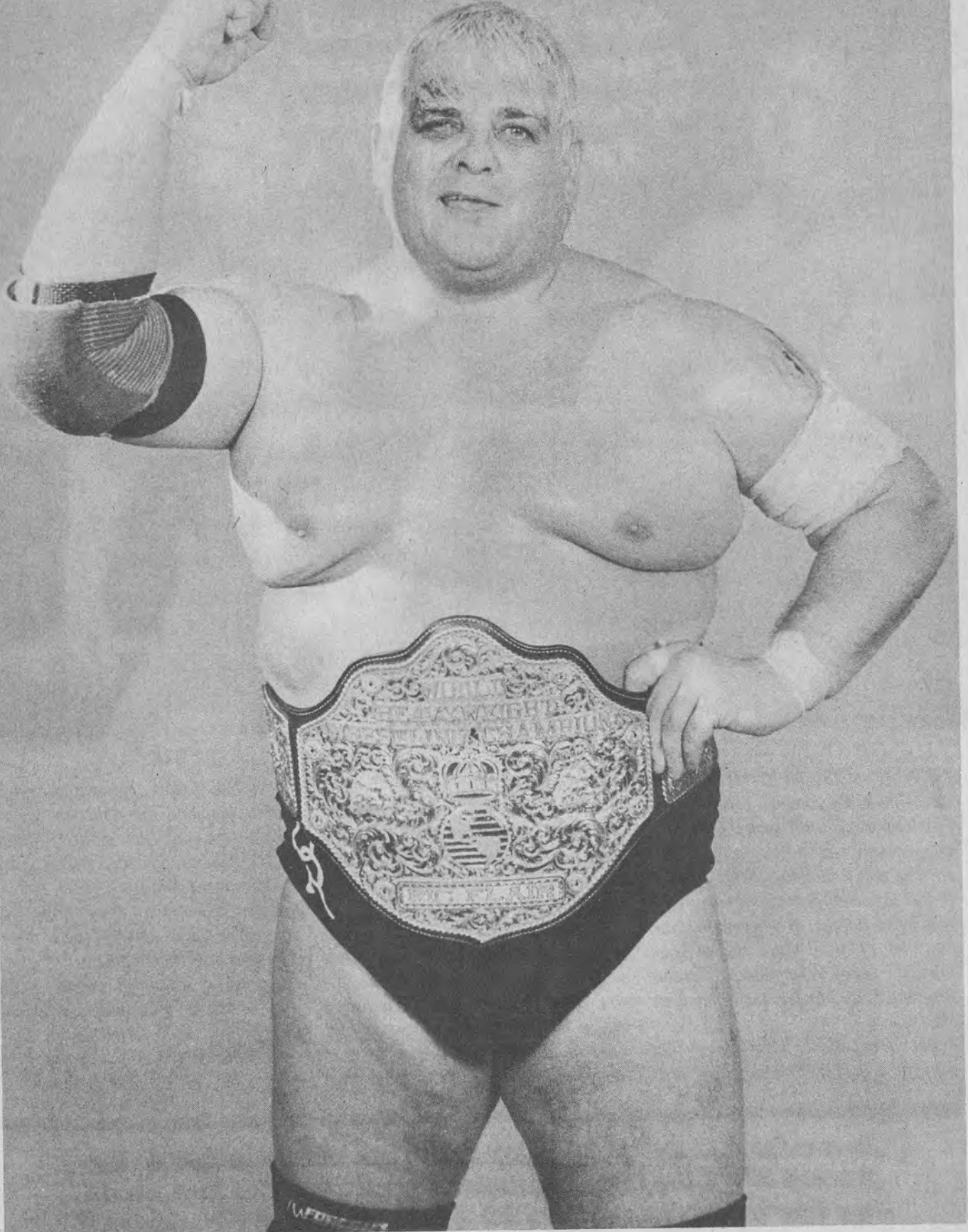
**T**HE WORLD OF professional sports is far more complex and multifaceted than many fans believe it to be. There are a multiplicity of currents and eddies that ebb and flow over the course of a month or a year, affecting the outcome of events in ways that often go unnoticed.

It is similar to the financial world. The value of a stock is keyed in to far more factors than simply whether or not the general public wishes to buy or sell their shares. There are investment interest rates, foreign and domestic monetary policies, international currency values, anticipations of future movements in the marketplace—indeed, something so simple as the weather, such as the drought in the American Mid-Atlantic states, may af-

*(Continued on page 58)*



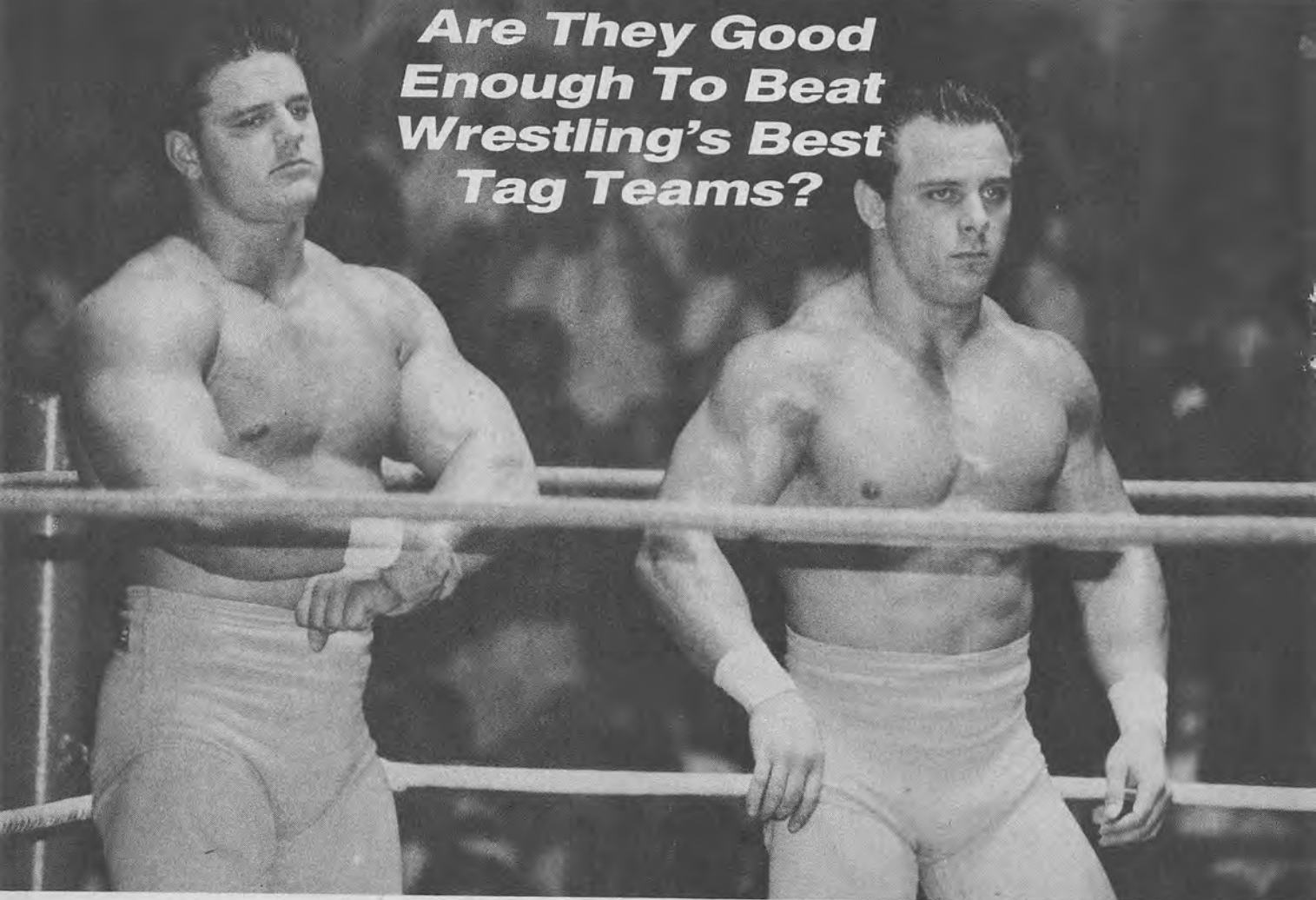
**Dusty Rhodes is still giddy from the celebration following his NWA World title victory over Ric Flair. But when the party's over, we should realize that it may well have been The Road Warriors who paved Dusty's path to the championship!**



*Photos by Bill Apter & Stu Saks*

# THE BRITISH BULLDOGS

**Are They Good  
Enough To Beat  
Wrestling's Best  
Tag Teams?**



**T**HEIR SCIENTIFIC MOVES are remarkably complex. They dazzle their opponents with teamwork that is as uncommon as it is effective. They are The British Bulldogs, and as WWF World tag team champions, they have weathered dozens of challenges from the likes of Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff, Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake, and Jim Neidhart and Brett Hart.

But what about those teams that aren't in the WWF? Would The Brit-

ish Bulldogs be able to leap, tumble, and dazzle their way to victory against The Road Warriors? How about The Rock 'n' Roll Express? Or The Fabulous Freebirds, The Fantastics, or Jim Cornette's Midnight Express?

The members of the editorial board of *Inside Wrestling* took a long afternoon—a very long afternoon (the session lasted from 3 p.m. until nearly one in the morning!)—to discuss and argue the possible results of a series of six dream matchups. The capsule sum-

maries that follow represent no single editor's opinions, but rather the general consensus of the entire editorial board. They are intended not so much as definitive statements on such matchups, but rather jumping-off points for your own discussions of these rather intriguing tag team matches.

And now, let's take a look at the possible results as Dynamite Kid and Davey Boy Smith, The British Bulldogs, take on six of the sport's most spectacular and talented tag teams.

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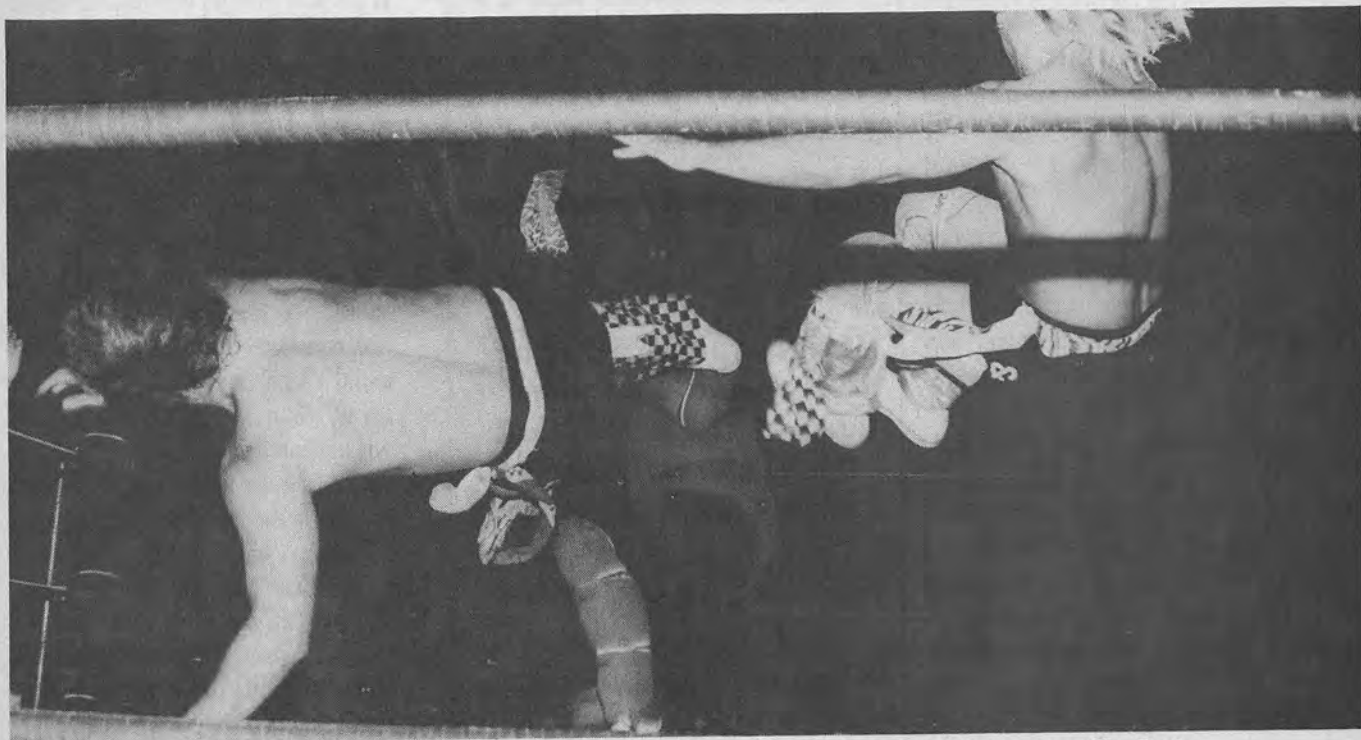
**Dynamite Kid and Davey Boy Smith are widely hailed as the greatest WWF tag team champions of all time. But how would they fare in matches against the sport's top non-WWF pairings?**



### ***Bulldogs vs. The Road Warriors:***

Key question: Will the Bulldogs set the pace of the match with their speed maneuvers, or will the Warriors be able to keep Kid and Smith slowed long enough to effectively use their power maneuvers? The outcome of the match depends in large part on the answer to that question. Our panel agreed that the 'Dogs would take an early advantage in the match, but that the Warriors would have the stamina and strength to overcome any pinning combinations that Kid and Smith could come up with. After a series of aerial moves, when the 'Dogs slow their pace to catch their breath and regroup, Hawk and Animal would move in, overpower them, and claim the victory.

With ease, Road Warrior Animal presses the 275-pound Nikita Koloff over his head. To beat The British Bulldogs, the Warriors would have to use their strength and hope to wear their opponents down over the course of the match.



Robert Gibson and Rick Morton level Jim Cornette with a double-dropkick. A matchup between The Rock 'n' Roll Express and the Bulldogs would be the most dazzling display of scientific prowess and speed imaginable between two tag teams.

***Bulldogs vs. The Rock 'n' Roll Express:*** A true matchup of speed vs. speed. Both teams employ complex maneuvers and quick, effective teamwork. The 'Dogs are slightly more creative over the course of the match,

while the Express tend to prefer setting up their opponents for established maneuvers such as the double dropkick. Also, the Express are more willing than the purely scientific 'Dogs to take the match to a brawl if necessary. We

anticipate a dazzling match in which both teams utilize their full arsenals of pinning combinations. Expect this match to be fought to a magnificent, exciting, high-energy time-limit draw.

*(Continued on page 52)*

# HOTSEAT

## NICK BOCKWINKEL: "I'M TWICE THE MAN STAN HANSEN EVER WAS!"

**R**EVERBERATIONS OF anger and disbelief are still thundering through the minds and hearts of AWA fans. Nick Bockwinkel is now in possession of the AWA World heavy-weight title—his fourth—and he didn't have to step into the ring to get it. The story is fast becoming 1986's most talked-about ruling.

On June 29, Bockwinkel was slated to wrestle AWA champ Stan Hansen in Denver. Hansen inexplicably left the arena only minutes after arriving, and left no word as to where he was going or whether he would return.

Denver promoter Gene Reed telephoned AWA President Stanley Blackburn for advice. Blackburn told Reed that if Hansen did not return to the arena before the last of the remaining matches was completed (it happened to be a battle royal), Bockwinkel would become the new champion by default.

Hansen, who left for a tour of Japan the day after the ruling, has been thus far unavailable for comment. Bockwinkel, however, graciously consented to the following interview, conducted by *Inside Wrestling* Associate Editor Craig Peters.

**Q:** I don't want to be insulting, Nick, but I have to be honest: A part of

me wants to congratulate you, and a part of me doesn't. This decision by Stanley Blackburn raises a lot of questions.

**A:** Go ahead and ask me any question you want, Craig. I'm well aware of the feelings and attitudes of the

“

**It wasn't a case where he was unable to get to the building. But he was there and left! The only way I can interpret that is cowardice.**

”

fans, and I'd prefer to air out any and all controversies right here and now. Don't worry, I won't rant and rave or try and choke you. That may be Hansen's style, but it's not mine.

**Q:** Fair enough. I guess the first question that comes to mind is: Was this a fair decision?

**A:** I believe so. I've always been of the philosophy that any man who holds the AWA World title ought to be the kind of man who is willing to defend that title against all comers. Sometimes you may not feel like going to work in the morning, but you go anyway, right? Well, sometimes a champion doesn't feel like wrestling. But that doesn't mean that the wrestler should be allowed to simply go home when he feels like it and avoid any match he wants to avoid. Stan Hansen had signed to wrestle me for the title. And it wasn't a case where he was unable to get to the building. If that were the case, I can see where he would have been angry about being stripped of the title, and in fact I wouldn't have accepted the title on those grounds. *But he was there and left!* The only way I can interpret that is cowardice.

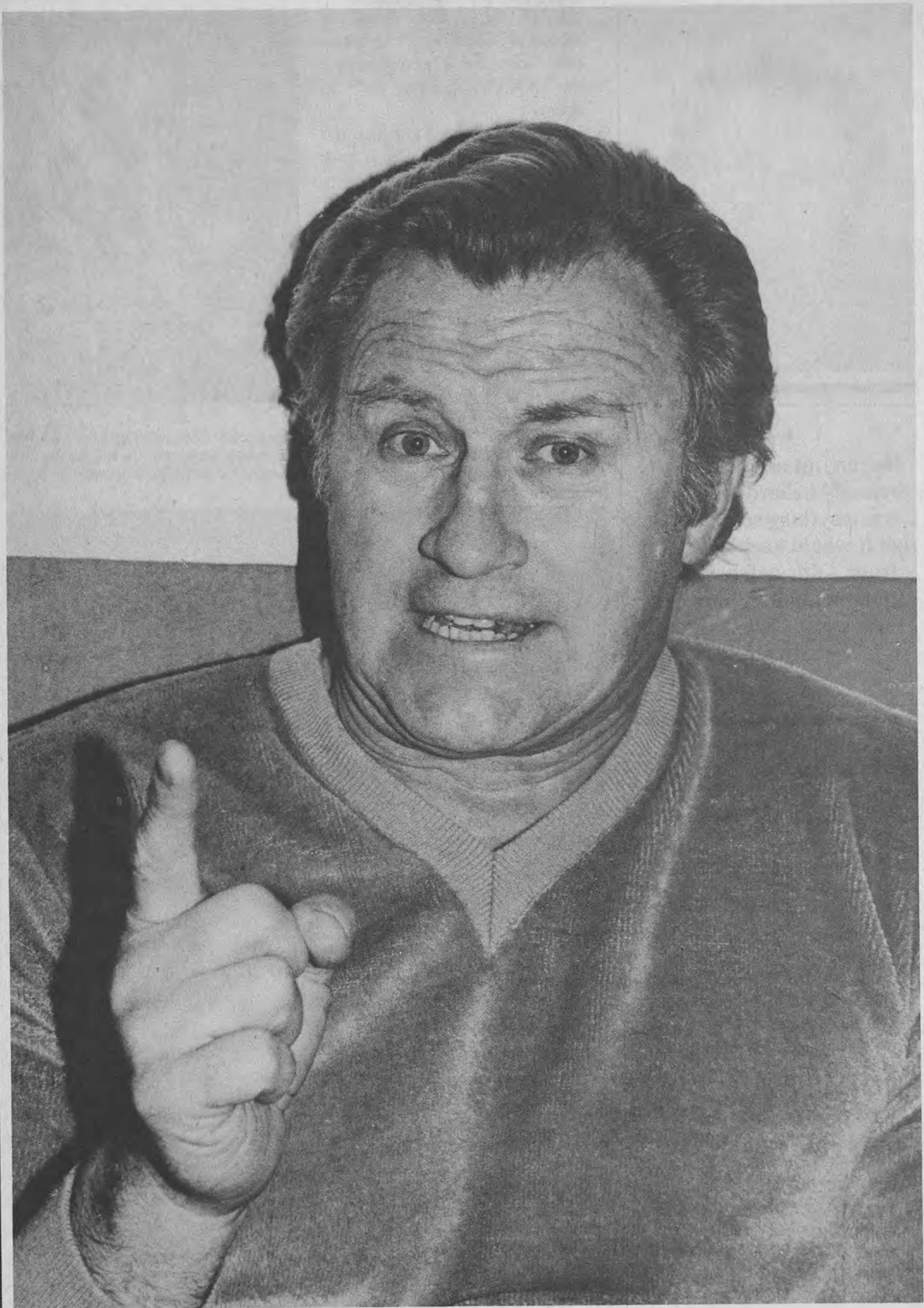
**Q:** You think Hansen was afraid of you?

**A:** I simply don't see any other explanation, do you?

**Q:** I haven't had the opportunity to speak with Hansen yet.

**A:** And you're not alone. Hansen is biding his time, waiting for the







“  
**He ran out on me. I can't honestly believe that there was *anything* so pressing that it would keep him away from a title defense. I've thought about it long and hard, and Hansen was simply afraid.**  
 ”

right excuse to come along.

**Q:** You really think he was afraid?

**A:** He ran out on me. I can't honestly believe that there was *anything* so pressing, short of a death in the family, that would keep him away from a title defense. And if there was a personal tragedy he had to deal with, he certainly could have taken five seconds to inform [Denver promoter] Gene Reed about the reasons he had for leaving the building. I've thought about it long and hard, and Hansen was simply afraid. It only goes to prove what I've known for a long time: I'm twice the man Stan Hansen ever was.

**Q:** But, I mean, do you honestly, deep down in your heart *honestly*, believe that you deserve the title?

**A:** I've said this before, and I'll say it again. If Hansen was to wrestle Leon White or Curt Hennig or Greg Gagne, and he ran out on

one of them, then White or Hennig or Gagne would be champion today and I would support the AWA's decision just as strongly.

**Q:** How do you respond to critics who say that even though this is your fourth AWA title, it's also the second one that you were handed without having to win a match for it.

**A:** You know, I've heard a lot about that lately, and I just want to say this: Back in May 1981, when I was awarded the title following Verne Gagne's retirement, I was not a closet champion. I did not



The Nick Bockwinkel-Larry Zbyszko feud hit its stride before Bockwinkel held the AWA title. Nick hangs Bockwinkel with his whip (above) and throws him across the ring by the neck with the whip (opposite page). Bockwinkel yanks Nord the Barbarian to the canvas by his hair (below).







walk away from arenas and I did not shirk any title defense responsibilities. I took on any and all men who felt they wanted to challenge me for the belt. And you know what? I held that title for 15 months. Many men had many chances to unseat me from the title throne. If I was undeserving of the title, how could I have been so successful in defending the belt for so long? I deserved that title, and I intend to prove, over the months to come, that I'm equally as deserving of this title reign.

**Q:** But it seems to me that a fairer decision might have been to either suspend title matches until an explanation from Hansen was made, or perhaps to vacate the title and hold a round-robin tournament for the belt.

**A:** I don't want to be placed in the position of second-guessing the AWA President, Craig, but I can tell you that, just as decisions in our American legal system are based on precedent, there is in fact precedent for this decision.

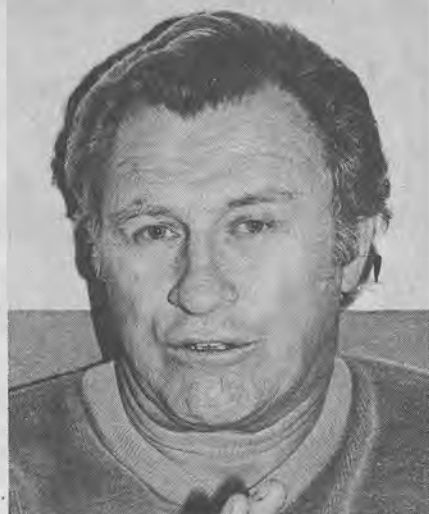
**Q:** When was that?

**A:** Well, back in 1980, Verne Gagne and Mad Dog Vachon held the AWA World tag team belts. When Verne defeated me for the AWA World title on July 18 of that year, he had taken such a beating in the match that he decided that he needed a vacation in Europe to recuperate. After all, he was now expected to defend *two* world title belts. Anyway, Verne didn't know about a scheduled tag team title match against Adrian Adonis and Jesse Ventura. He *should* have known—that's the responsibility of a champion. Verne's friends tried to get in touch with him, but they couldn't.

**Q:** And the tag belts were awarded to Adonis and Ventura by default.

**A:** Precisely. And, coincidentally, that match was scheduled to take place in Denver, and the promoter then, as now, was Gene Reed.

**Q:** Before we run out of time, Nick, I want to ask you to rate the three men who you feel are the top challengers to the belt right now.



**“**  
**I'd welcome the opportunity to wrestle Hansen. The sooner I pin Hansen's shoulders to the mat for a three-count, the sooner the critics will quiet down and look at me as the true champion I am.**  
**”**

**A:** Well, I think one of them has got to be Nord the Barbarian. He's determined, he's hungry, and he's dangerous. I think Larry Zbyszko is going to be pretty determined over the next few months. Bruiser Brody would also have to be in there. Beyond those three, I'm looking at significant championship challenges from the likes of Boris Zukhov, Col. DeBeers, and Playboy Buddy Rose.

**Q:** And what about Stan Hansen?

**A:** Nobody's heard from him! I'd welcome the opportunity to wrestle Hansen. I'd sign that contract in a second. In fact, I'm looking forward to that match taking place soon. Because the sooner I pin Hansen's shoulders to the mat for a three-count, the sooner the critics will quiet down, stop saying I don't deserve the AWA World title, and look at me as the true champion I am. □

# *For Four Decades . . .* **BILL WATTS WALKS TALL FOR AMERICA**





**C**OWBOY BILL WATTS is two men. On the one hand he is Bill Watts, UWF president and statutory policeman of the most rugged, most violent federation in the sport. On the other hand he is Bill Watts, wrestler, defender of personal honor, and recent campaigner against such hated grapplers as Kortsia Korchenko, The Blade Runners, and Eddie Gilbert.

There are some fans who don't recognize the distinction. Or who feel that one man ought not try to be two men.

"Listen to this piece of tripe," Watts said as he removed the sheet of paper from a large folder on the desk that held most of the UWF area's current and pending business. "My friend Bill Apter up at

*Inside Wrestling* sent this one down to me, a letter from a Darryl Richardelle of Cut Off, Louisiana. Apter thought I'd be interested. Listen to this:

*"Since the birth of the UWF last spring, 'Cowboy' Bill Watts, president of the federation, has once again come out of retirement to try and rid the area of 'Hot Stuff' Eddie Gilbert, the Russians, and The Fabulous Freebirds. It was proven that Watts was not up to the task when he was severely injured twice on national television. If Watts can't stand the heat, he should get out of the kitchen. I think he should leave the policing actions to the wrestlers who are still in their primes, such as Terry Taylor, Steve Williams, and Ted DiBiase.*

"And there's more," Watts said as he screwed his face into a grimace of disgust. "Listen:

*"I thought I had seen 'The Cowboy' in the ring for the last time with his 'Final Stampede' campaign against Jim Cornette and The Midnight Express. I was apparently wrong. I'm getting a little tired of seeing 'Cowboy' Bill Watts come out of retirement to try and be a hero. Watts was a great champion, but his prime is over. So, Watts, what will it be? Will you run the Universal Wrestling Federation from your office, or will you wrestle in the ring? I really wish you would make up your mind."*

Watts' eyes burned with intensity of purpose. "You know what I think of this letter?" he asked rhetorical-

***Any wrestler in the UWF who feels that the comeback of Bill Watts is a promotional gimmick or a personal grab for glory is absolutely wrong. Surprise—Watts has never really been away in the first place!***

Bill Watts has rid the UWF of Kortsia Korchenko (below) and is now concentrating on Sting, the last of The Blade Runners (right).





Twenty years ago, then-rulebreaker Watts is warned by referee Dick Kroll for ripping open Bruno Sammartino's mouth along the ropes.

ly. Without waiting for an answer, he took the letter and proceeded to transform it into a fistful of confetti.

"Can't stand the heat . . . maybe this punk from Cut Off ought to step through those ropes and see what it's like."

Watts threw the confetti into the garbage can. The letter had clearly struck a raw nerve, and Watts was anxious to make his opinions clearly known.

"First of all, I *can* stand the heat, and I've proven that time and time again. Do you see Kortsia Korchenko in the UWF anymore? Do you see The Blade Runners in the UWF anymore? Who do you think is stepping forward and doing something about [Eddie] Gilbert? Damn right.

"Hey, maybe my prime is over," said Watts, who began his professional career in 1959, "but that doesn't mean I'm still not able to get the job done. You look at any sport, particularly this year, and you'll see it's the guys with the experience who have been coming out on top. Okay, I may not be wrestling when I'm 70, but at this

point, age isn't the biggest factor in my career."

Watts seemed to calm down a bit, and the fire in his eyes subsided somewhat as his memory brought him back to the early days and feuds of his career.

"Hell, I held just about every damn title on the map. Feuded with every damn wrestler that crossed my path. Back in '65 I wrestled Bruno Sammartino. He called it the toughest match of his career. And who do you think put Oklahoma wrestling on the map? Damn straight!"

Watts opened the bottom drawer of his desk, pulled out a thick manila folder, leafed through it quickly, and pulled out a magazine clipping.

"This is from December 1970. See what this says? '*All-American Pro Wrestler Bill Watts.*' And that's the bottom line for me. Always was, always will be. All-American."

Watts replaced the folder, and his eyes once again took on an uncommon intensity.

"See, I like being president of the UWF. The toughest thing I have to tangle with is maybe some sort of legal rigamarole or other to clear a man's contract to wrestle; I don't have to worry about getting the you know what beaten out of me at any second with an ambush from behind.

"But first of all, I never liked what Korchenko was doing, draping his Russian flag over an opponent. That was unnecessarily insulting to his opponents. And as for Gilbert—well, Eddie's a good kid, and he's gone wrong. He's not stupid by any means, he's just . . . it's kind of like when a teenager falls in with the wrong crowd. Eddie fell in with the wrong crowd. And he's got to be taught a lesson.

"Hey, I may not be able to do triple backflips off the top rope, and the fans may not clamor for me to be turned into a Saturday morning cartoon, and I may not look like some kind of bodybuilder,



Ten years ago, Watts, now walking tall for America, throws Mr. Fuji to the mat when he tries to interfere on behalf of Prof. Toru Tanaka.

but I'm damned if I'm gonna sit by and do nothing while Gilbert and Korchenko and The Blade Runners do whatever they damn please. Hell no. I can separate business from wrestling, and if the need arises, I'm going to do just that. Just like I've done for four decades. Walking tall for America, that's my motto, and there isn't anybody, wrestler or fan, who can keep me from keeping on walking, anywhere or any time I want."

Watts sat back in his chair with an angry, but satisfied, look on his face. No doubt that satisfaction comes from the fact that Korchenko and The Blade Runners are no longer in the UWF.

Walking tall for America. Through four decades, Bill Watts is as tall and as proud as ever! □





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**The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One on One**

**W**HEN SOUTHERN champion Lex Luger signed to wrestle Ric Flair in a best two-out-of-three-falls match for the NWA World championship, he never could have realized that the bout would turn into a 10-on-1 mugging with Luger on the wrong side. Nor could he have realized that, despite winning the first fall, he would never even get the opportunity to win the title.

It all had to do with Sir Oliver Humperdink, who devised a sinister sneak attack that landed Luger in a local hospital. Actually, when Flair returned to the dressing room after losing the first fall, Luger should have figured that something was going on: Wrestlers rarely return to the dressing room between falls, unless injured, and Flair was still, for the most part, in one piece.

Just as Flair disappeared into the dressing room, Humperdink and nine of his men poured into the ring and attacked Luger. Joining the outrageous manager were Kendo Nagasaki, The White Ninja, Ron Bass, and six masked men, who still have not been identified. Luger was struck by seven deadly karate thrusts and lay motionless on the mat. Barry Windham, who at the time was injured and using crutches, tried to help out, but he was also attacked and had his knee reinjured.

So now a violent war has developed

# ONE ON ONE



*"One guy would have been enough to put you away, but there's a long list of men who can't wait to get a shot at you."*

—Sir Oliver Humperdink

in Florida, pitting Humperdink's Shock Troops against Luger and Windham. And, since Luger hasn't forgotten about the NWA title, Flair figures to get a piece of the action, too. But the main characters in this feud are Humperdink and Luger, and *Inside Wrestling* brought them together for a chilling telephonic battle of threats and accusations, sure to chill even the most hardened fan.

## LEX LUGAR:

Well, Humperdink, I'm surprised you had the backbone to consent to this conversation, you overstuffed rooster. I would have thought that you'd have one of your obese Shock Troop chumps take your place.

## OLIVER HUMPERDINK:

Not very perceptive of you Lu-

gar, my boy, because if you'll remember, I was the first man to enter the ring before my "chumps," as you call them, beat the stuffing out of you. That was quite a sight, watching the Southern champion writhing on the mat in pain while your little friend Windham tried to come to your rescue. Tell me, Luger, what do you plan on doing for an encore?

**LL:** Maybe punching you in your fat belly so hard that your eyes pop out of their sockets. Maybe getting revenge against you slowly, painfully, so you experience for yourself the pain that 10 of your goons gave to me. By the way, does it make you proud that it took 10 men to beat me up? Or



# N ONE



*"If you're willing to send them on one at a time, I'm willing to send them back to you in little tiny pieces. Bloody pieces."*

—Lex Luger

does that make you scared, because you know you couldn't get the job done—and because you're number one on my list?

**OH:** Couldn't get the job done? Be serious, rockhead. They carted you out of that arena like you were a dead man, which you would have been if I didn't want to keep you alive so that we could finish the job later on. One more karate thrust and they would have had to stitch your head back together with your body, but that would have been too easy. Mark my words, Luger. One guy would have been enough to put you away, but there's a long list of men who can't wait to get a shot at you.

**LL:** If you're willing to send them on

one at a time, I'm willing to send them back to you in little, tiny pieces. Bloody pieces. Pieces that you won't be able to put back together again. I'd like to see you face a 10-on-1 and see what kind of shape you're in after it's over. I'm still spitting and kicking, tubby. You may have knocked me down for a time, but you sure didn't knock me out.

**OH:** That's right, Luger. Spitting blood like a retarded hemophiliac and kicking like a stricken epileptic at a Rockettes' audition. How about the look on your face the other day when you saw Kareem Muhammad? I've never seen such fear in my entire life. The Shock Troops have you

running scared, brains of stone, and you can't deny it. You'll never get near Flair's title and that Southern belt won't be around your waist for long.

**LL:** If any of your men managed to cheat their way to my belt, they'd have to add five yards of leather to each strap to make it fit! By the way, Flair must be paying you a pretty penny to concentrate so hard on me. Flair knows I can beat him, that's why he paid you to send the Troops after me, isn't it? I beat him clean in one fall of that best-of-three, and he knows I can pin him again. Just how much is Flair paying you, Humperdink? Enough to keep you in pancakes for a year or so? That's quite a lot of money!

**OH:** Flair didn't have to pay me a red cent. The idea was mine and the pleasure was certainly all mine. By the way, you seem to be stuck on this subject of my weight. Is this some physical attraction you have for me or are you just trying to hide your fear of my enormous power? I'm very proud of my stomach, Luger, because it's the product of my great wealth and the leisurely life I've learned to lead, something that you will never attain.

**LL:** Figures. Pride in fat. No wonder you have pride in your stomach, you certainly don't have any pride in yourself. Otherwise you'd take care of your body with exercise and nutrition, not with beer and doughnuts.

**OH:** There you go again, Luger. Obviously, this conversation is going nowhere. Your brain is apparently too weak for you to engage in a constructive discussion with a man of my knowledge and ingenuity. I've had enough. From now on, my men and I will deal with you in the ring, where we've already proven our great superiority. Time is running out for you and your buddy Windham. □

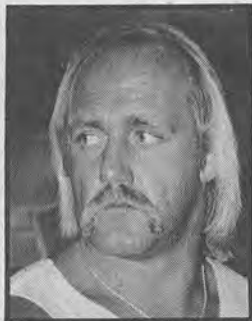
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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 6)



Billy Jack's latest departure from the Pacific Northwest has cost him the respect of reader Holly Blosser.

A couple of months ago, Matt Brock commented on Billy and said that his theme song should be "On The Road Again." I wrote a letter to Brock complaining about his treatment of Haynes, and how wrong he was about Billy. Little did I know how right he actually was. Everything he said was true, but I, like many other fans, was too blind to see.

When he first left, I figured he was on vacation. I didn't know how wrong I was until I accidentally ran across him on a WWF show. I was so angry at myself for believing what Billy said. He went from being my favorite wrestler to my most hated wrestler. His lies are worse than any act of violence.

The reason I wrote this letter is to formally apologize to Matt Brock. I am truly ashamed of what I said to you. I know you don't care, but I'm telling you anyway. I know that many PNW fans still love Billy, but I can't do that. I doubt if I can ever trust him

(Continued on page 50)

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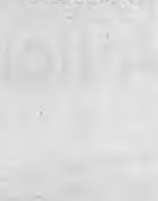
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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 49)

again.

Billy Jack Haynes has definitely proven that he can't be trusted in any situation. Anyway, it doesn't seem like the fans support him in the WWF like they did in the PNW, Florida, and other places where he was truly respected.

HOLLY BLOSSER  
Vancouver, WA

## DEFENDING THE MIDNIGHTS

This letter is in response to the letter sent by Phylis Kerns of Baltimore, printed in the July 1986 issue of *Inside Wrestling* ("Let's Go To The Videotape"). If Ms. Kerns were a true wrestling purist, she would drop her obviously biased opinion against The Midnight Express.

I, too, have the world championship match on videotape, but if you view the *entire* match (not just the parts that interest you), you will discover two things:

1) Jim Cornette did *not* jump to the



Jim Cornette places Bobby Eaton on top of Rick Morton as The Midnight Express win the NWA World tag team title from The Rock 'n' Roll Express. Veronica Nester defends the Midnight Express' actions.

ring apron; he was pulled into the ring by none other than Rick Morton, and 2) The first person to use the tennis racket was *not* a member of The Midnight Express; it was Robert Gibson.

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He complained that the referee was preoccupied and did not see his illegal pinfall, but cried when the referee counted Bobby Eaton's. I say turn-about is fair play. The double standard in wrestling sickens me!

Another example is that of Baby Doll. When she was with Tully Blanchard, it was okay, even encouraged, for Dusty to slap her around. Now that she has switched allegiances, any man who even mentions laying a hand on her has committed the unpardonable sin.

I like Baby Doll. I even like The Rock 'n' Roll Express. But you have to look at both sides with open eyes and an open mind. All I can say is that any fan who likes a wrestler purely on the basis of which side he is wrestling on, and condones his illegal actions while criticizing others, is the mindless, ignorant, uneducated fan that the late, great Dan Shocket so often spoke of.

VERONICA NESTER  
Dublin, VA □

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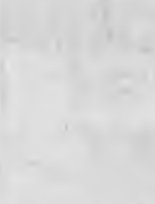
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## BRITISH BULLDOGS

(Continued from page 37)

**Bulldogs vs. The Fabulous Freebirds:** The Bulldogs are all business. The Freebirds are brawlers who also happen to enjoy partying and primping for the fans. And, depending on which combination of 'Birds face Kid and Smith, the 'Dogs could be outweighed by as much as 100 pounds (given a Michael Hayes-Terry Gordy pairing). Those are the major considerations in analyzing this particular matchup. (A

match between The Freebirds and The Rock 'n' Roll Express, detailed in the November 1986 edition of *The Wrestler*, gives us a hint as to the potential outcome of a similarly-styled 'Dogs-'Birds bout.) Look for the Bulldogs to win as The Freebirds are characteristically disqualified for taking the match out of the ring and escalating the bout to an all-out brawl.

(Continued on page 54)



Michael Hayes adds force to Terry Gordy's piledriver against Rick Martel. Although this particular combination of Freebirds would outweigh the Bulldogs by about 100 pounds, they would have to show more discipline and regard for the rules to emerge victorious.



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**June 1982/COLOR PINUP:** Nick Bockwinkel. **Adonis & Ventura**, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

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**September 1982/COLOR PINUP:** Blackjack Mulligan Jr. **Tommy Rich**, Piper, Snuka, Von Erich, Martel.

**October 1982/COLOR PINUP:** Jerry Lawler. **Ric Flair**, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

**December 1982/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel. **Hulk Hogan**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Albano.

**January 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

**February 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

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**August 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

**October 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

**November 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

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**June 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

**July 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

**August 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler**, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

**October 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

**November 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

**December 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Kerry Von Erich. **Barry Windham**, Rich, Martel, McDaniel, WWF-NWA TV war.

**January 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

**February 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

**April 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Ronnie Garvin. **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

**June 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

**July 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

**September 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

**October 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

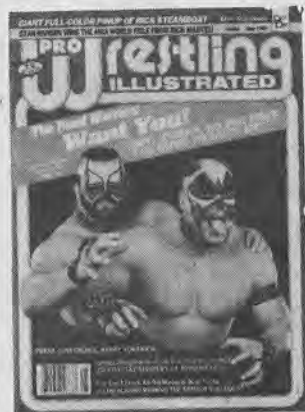
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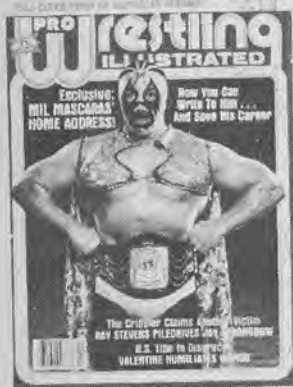
**May 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Stearns. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

**June 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

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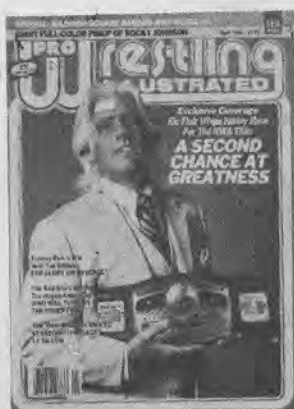
**August 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

**October 1986/COLOR PINUP:** John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.



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## BRITISH BULLDOGS

(Continued from page 52)

**Bulldogs vs. The Fantastics:** Tommy Rogers and Bobby Fulton have proven their mettle in a lengthy series of violent bouts against The Shepherders, and would give the 'Dogs perhaps the toughest match of any team in this survey. Indeed, The Fantastics would be able to match the Bulldogs maneuver for maneuver, as both teams are not only quick-thinking, but similarly able to devise new strategies virtually on the spot in order to turn an advantage around. Our panel of editors argued longer over this match than any other. Call it even: a 50-50 chance of either team claiming victory, primarily dependant on whether one combination or another makes a momentary slip that the other team sees and is able to capitalize on.



Tommy Rogers soars through the air toward David Peterson. The Fantastics and The British Bulldogs are extremely well-matched.

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**Bulldogs vs. The Midnight Express:** As usual, where the Express is concerned, the match is more of a three-on-two mismatch as Jim Cornette and his tennis racket usually enter the picture somewhere during the bout. In this particular matchup, the Bulldogs' manager, Capt. Lou Albano, would probably play a more important role during the match in keeping Cornette in check than he would in the prematch strategy conferences. Even if Albano is able to prevent Cornette

from interfering, the activities outside the ring could play a major role in the match's outcome. For the Bulldogs' precision teamwork to be effective, they have to have total concentration in the ring. Any distractions—and there should be many with Cornette and Albano running around at ring-side—could cause the Dogs' to make a fatal error that the Express could capitalize on and earn them the victory. If the Bulldogs do not make that one error, they should win.



Bobby Eaton and Dennis Condrey hold Rick Morton as Jim Cornette takes an open shot. To beat The Midnight Express, the Bulldogs would have to rely on their manager, Capt. Lou Albano, to keep Cornette away from the action.



Lance Von Erich comes up short on a flying bodypress and will be slammed by Matt Borne. Lance's inexperience would hurt his team's chances.

**Bulldogs vs. Kevin & Lance Von Erich:** There is no doubt that the Von Erichs are spectacular wrestlers. They excel in both singles and tag team wrestling, but as tag wrestlers they employ essentially singles styles in tandem; that is, they do not concentrate as much on pure team maneuvers as do such pairings as The Rock 'n' Rolls, Fantastics, or the Bulldogs themselves. And while the Von Erichs are fast, the 'Dogs would nevertheless enjoy the edge in that category. Lance's inexperience might prove the weak link here. Again, a spectacular match, but the edge belongs to the Bulldogs. ☐

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## RUDE VS. ADAMS

(Continued from page 31)

change hands on disqualifications, many people felt that Pringle's interference would eventually cost Rude the title. But nobody thought that Pringle's interference would cause Rude to get pinned.

"Percy is a very excitable man," said a subdued Rude at the postmatch press conference. "Occasionally, he gets a little too involved with what's going on, but he's only trying to help. Unfortunately, in this case, it ended up costing me the title, because I was going to beat Adams even without Percy's help. I'm not ready to blame him for what happened, but I would hope that it doesn't happen again. In fact, I'm going to take precautions to make sure it doesn't happen again."

Rude refused to elaborate on those planned precautions, but in the following days, it became obvious that a rift had developed between Pringle and the former World Class champion. Pringle was not present for a photo session with Rude and appeared just minutes prior to a match one week later. Rude walked away, obviously angered, from a strategy meeting with his manager and was later seen engaged in a loud shouting match with Pringle.

It should be remembered that Rude and Pringle came to the World Class area after Rude lost the Southern title to Wahoo McDaniel following a similar blunder by Pringle. Six months earlier, Pringle's misguided interference enabled Brian Blair to defeat Rude. When Rude and Pringle came to the World Class area, the manager was under strict orders from his charge to stay clear of the ring.

But as his title defenses became more and more difficult, Rude allowed more and more interference from his manager. So, in truth, he is partially to blame for the loss.

"A man of Rude's ego will never admit to that," said Adams, who foresees Rude and Pringle's relationship ending in much the same manner as his with Gino Hernandez. "I remem-



ber when Gino and I were the same way, just before things totally fell apart. We were both stubborn egomaniacs and we were destined to butt heads sooner or later. I just hope that they don't reach as tragic an end as we did."

Of course, the culmination of that friendship were the blinding of Adams and Hernandez's death, a tragic pair of events that had no chance for a happy ending. Certainly, nothing can bring back Hernandez. His death was a lesson for everybody, including Adams. "When Gino died, I thought about my life and what I wanted to happen in my future," Adams said. "I wasn't going to remain a bitter man and I wasn't going to let my life go to waste. In a way, Gino is greatly responsible for me winning the title."

There were other incidents that caused Adams' change of heart: the telephone call from the carnival barker, an incident on a Dallas street when Adams stopped to help out a blind man and saw what his own future might hold, and a relationship that developed in the hospital with a seven-year-old boy who was dying from a brain tumor.

"This young boy was an IQ genius, a beautiful kid with a great personality," said Adams. "His father was a college baseball star and his mother a beauty queen. This kid figured to have a great future and then, when he was six, the doctors diagnosed a brain tumor. When I was in the hospital, I talked to the boy every day and I was overcome by his courage to overcome the illness, the positive attitude he managed to maintain, and his love for other people. Two days after he was released, I found out that the young boy died. I've now dedicated the rest of my life to this kid."

Chris Adams is a changed man, a hard-working individual with a positive outlook on life. His bitterness gone, his hatred dissolved, Adams was able to overcome the odds, regain his sight, and return to the wrestling ring.

On July 4, 1986 in Dallas, a miracle occurred. Perhaps Chris Adams' amazing story has just begun. □

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## WARRIORS VS. FLAIR

(Continued from page 34)



Though Flair was in the best shape of his career for the Bash series, he was no match physically for The Road Warriors. Hawk flings the champion into the turnbuckles (above left). After being shoved to the mat by Animal (above right), Flair shows the fear that Ellering feels contributed heavily to his loss against Dusty Rhodes.

fect certain elements of finance throughout the globe.

Professional wrestling is no different. Now, I'm not asserting that The Legion of Doom possesses any claim to the NWA World heavyweight championship itself. But I do want to clarify that The Road Warriors were in fact the strongest eddies and flows in the strong currents that brought Dusty Rhodes to the most honored position in professional sport.

Let's go back to square one and follow the mathematics through to the bottom line.

We're talking about The Great American Bash, a series of the 14 most significant cards in the history of the NWA. Fourteen cards that set the pace for professional wrestling in the year that is to follow. Fourteen cards that underwent microscopic attention by the entire wrestling world. And as such, the pressure placed on the wrestlers, and on Ric Flair in particular, is absolutely enormous.

The first Bash of the series naturally was a most important one. It would set the pace that the remaining cards would have to follow. And in that first Bash, on July 1 in Philadelphia's Vet-

erans Stadium, Flair placed his title on the line against Hawk.

Anyone who was in Philadelphia that day would have to have been blind not to witness two clear and distinct facts about the Flair-Hawk match: Flair was supremely overpowered by Hawk, and Flair was experiencing a level of fear he seldom has in his life.

We saw that same fear precisely eight days later, when Animal challenged Flair for the belt at the fifth Bash card in Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium.

Flair had never wrestled Hawk or Animal in singles matches prior to the Great American Bash, though he had wrestled them in six-man contests—with Dusty Rhodes as the Warriors' partner. That's a significant fact.

On July 26, the 13th Bash would prove to be the unlucky one for Flair. Still vibrating from the depths of the fear he experienced, fear over the fact that yes, these two men, these Road Warriors, are more capable of taking his title than anyone else he has ever faced, Flair stepped into the steel cage in Norfolk, Virginia. Dusty Rhodes  
(Continued on page 60)

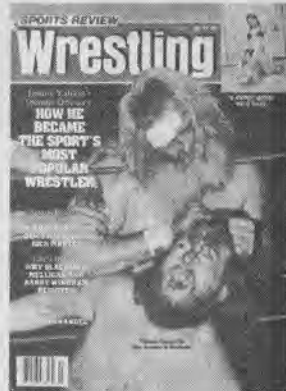


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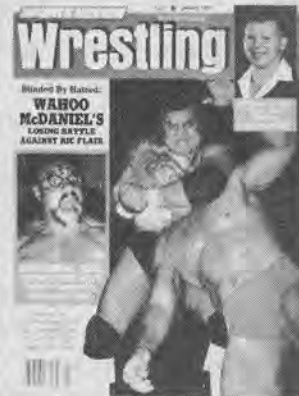
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JULY 1983

**July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.**  
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**WARRIORS VS. FLAIR**

(Continued from page 58)



By the time the 13th Great American Bash was held in Greensboro, North Carolina, Flair could not have been 100 percent physically or mentally. Rhodes' sleeperhold weakens the "Nature Boy" considerably (above left). Dusty "helps" Flair off the top rope (above right).

saw the fear in Flair's eyes, he noticed the errors that fear caused Flair to commit, and he capitalized on those errors.

To his credit, Rhodes wrestled a magnificent match in Norfolk. But consider: Rhodes has wrestled dozens of magnificent matches against Flair over the last year or more. He has come close many times to winning the coveted heavyweight title. What made this night different from the other nights?

Remember: It was the next-to-last Bash. Flair was tired. He had to live up to a pace set by Hawk in the opening Bash, he had to defend his title against not only Hawk and Animal and Dusty, but also Magnum T.A., Wahoo McDaniel, Rick Morton, Robert Gibson, Ronnie Garvin, and Nikita Koloff. He was tired. And the fear, fear experienced for the first time when he stepped into the ring with Hawk, and again a week later with Animal, that fear welled to the surface in the face of the exhaustion. Exhaustion and fear. I've seen it before. It can kill a man. In this case, it nearly did.

No, The Road Warriors did not seriously injure Flair physically and allow Dusty to win the title, though they did give him two of the toughest physical matches of his life. But they did cripple him psychologically. Yes, fear is crippling, and Flair was indeed

crippled.

That, in a very real sense, was how my Road Warriors made Dusty Rhodes NWA World champion. It was a subtle effect on the NWA World title picture, but it was an effect that was nevertheless there, and it is clearly apparent to anyone willing to take a deeper look beneath the surface of events that took place during The Great American Bash.

In conclusion, I want to wish Dusty Rhodes good luck during his new title reign, and I want to point out that I will be paying *very* close attention to what transpires over the next few weeks. For Dusty will have to provide a mandatory set of rematches to Flair. And if he can successfully hold off Flair and claim the title as his own for more than a week or two, I will be approaching him with a contract.

Because if the '86 Bash series taught professional wrestling anything, it taught wrestling this: That fear—fear and The Road Warriors—are three things that, from this day forward, every NWA World champion will have to deal with sooner or later.

Mark this promise well: The Legion of Doom will possess both the NWA World tag team championship and the NWA World singles title before the decade of the '80s is complete.

One final comment to Dusty Rhodes: You're welcome. □



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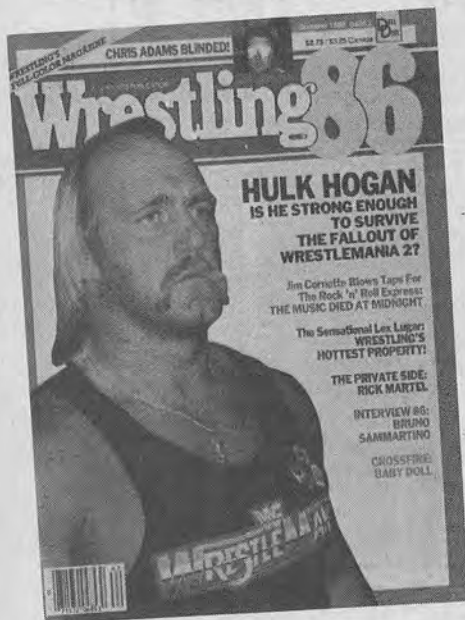
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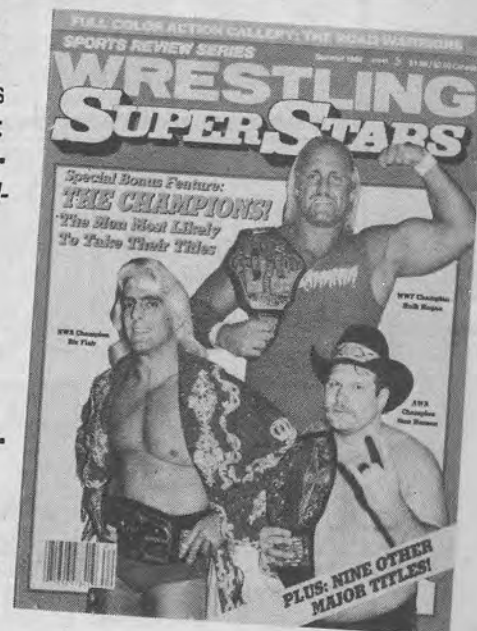
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## DRESSING ROOM

(Continued from page 10)

Shuffle."

While no longer in a position to get title matches with Hulk Hogan, Orndorff also had to share whatever was left with these others. While he never did talk about the situation, one could sense how the frustration was eating away at him. Life was not too wonderful for Mr. Wonderful, and it was beginning to show. He became almost impossible to talk to. He'd snap at you over the simplest of questions.

His ultimate decision to turn against Hulk Hogan was not a spontaneous one. The much-publicized Phone Call, in which Orndorff was trying to arrange a training session and was snubbed by the champion, was something that Orndorff would have forgotten about quickly under ordinary circumstances. But these were hardly ordinary circumstances. By the time the Phone Call was made, Orndorff had already mapped out his battle plan. After he attacked Hogan following their match with Big John Studd and King Kong Bundy three weeks later, the television cameras followed Orndorff back to the rulebreakers' dressing room, where he celebrated with Studd, Bundy, Adrian Adonis, Bobby Heenan, and Jimmy Hart. It became immediately evident that Orndorff had been in contact with the enemy camp beforehand and that the assault on Hogan was premeditated.

Now Orndorff is back among the scum of the WWF and directly in line for more shots at Hogan's title. It's ironic that to get the chance to reach one of the highest plateaus in the sport, he had to physically assault the man currently in that position. It's sad that the WWF policy of not rewarding its best scientific wrestlers with title shots was the cause of the

(Continued on page 64)

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## DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 63)



After being rescued by Mr. T and Hulk Hogan from an attack by Roddy Piper and Cowboy Bob Orton a month after WrestleMania 1, Orndorff appears to be bewildered by the entire situation. Seconds later, the three shook hands and a friendship was formed.

sault. And it's tragic that the victim of the assault was a man who has little say over who his opponents will be—Hulk Hogan.

Hogan has cause for concern. Apparently, he not only has to worry about such men as Randy Savage, Adrian Adonis, and Jake Roberts, but now he must realize that he is not even safe from the people he thought he could trust. If Orndorff could attack him and be rewarded with title matches, what's to stop Tito Santana or Cpl. Kirchner from doing the same?

The obvious solution to the problem is to reward wrestlers equally with title shots, regardless of whether or not they adhere to the rules. Why does the WWF insist that the fans would not be receptive to a Hulk Hogan-King Tonga match? Or a Hulk Hogan-Rick Steamboat match? Or (I shudder to think) a Hulk Hogan-Bruno Sammartino match? Recent attendance figures have proven that fans have grown tired of seeing the same matchups over and over. Such matches would add some spice the increasingly boring WWF wrestling

scene.

The random format at the WWF's "King Of The Ring" tournament in Foxboro, Massachusetts, in July allowed for some rulebreaker vs. rulebreaker and scientific vs. scientific matches. I didn't notice too many of the fans leaving their seats for hot dogs while Magnificent Muraco wrestled Roddy Piper or even when Pedro Morales wrestled Mike Rotundo. The fans are a little more sophisticated than WWF promoters apparently think they are. Agreed, there's nothing better than a hot feud. But it's also fun to watch two guys you hate trying to do each other in or two of the most capable scientific stars being allowed to show their skills for an entire match instead of being dragged into a brawl with a rulebreaker.

Paul Orndorff's dissension, I believe, was fostered by the WWF's antiquated policy forbidding Hogan from wrestling scientific wrestlers. Before another popular wrestler is driven by the same frustration that led Orndorff astray, the WWF must act to resolve this unjust situation. □



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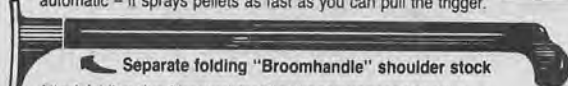
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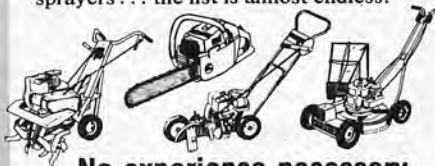
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